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November 2009

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DIEGO FORLAN received his prize as winner of the 2009 ESM Golden Shoe in a ceremony in Madrid last month (page 68). Forlan was a worthy winner of the award – for the second time in his career – after scoring 32 league goals for Atletico Madrid.

Forlan's goals in Spain, but his lack of success in England earlier in his career, prompted us to ask the question: who is the world's greatest striker? Such an exercise always provokes debate and may help to settle some heated arguments.

Don't confuse the world's greatest striker with the world's best player – as recognised by our annual Player of the Year award. Please take the trouble to vote in our annual awards, which are now in their 28th year and are the oldest of their kind in world football (page 40).

Next month, we'll preview the World Cup play-offs and review the qualifying campaign in full. FIFA has been criticised for the late announcement that the European play-offs will be seeded. Although the same matches four years ago were also seeded, the timing of FIFA's announcement – after it became clear that high-ranked teams such as France and Portugal would most likely be in the play-offs – smacks of commercial opportunism.

The silence of Sepp Blatter – never far from a microphone when it comes to attacking the aggressive commercialism of the English Premier League – on this matter suggests FIFA has taken its eye off the ball.

PS Turn to page 42 for an outstanding offer for new subscribers – a free copy of the European Football Yearbook 2009-10, worth £25.

GAVIN HAMILTON, Editor
gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com

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AND THE WORLD'S GREATEST STRIKER IS...

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SAVE MONEY ON WorldSoccer
SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTIONS OFFER ON PAGE 42

...IN PICTURES

The global game caught on camera

Great Danes...Denmark's Daniel Agger and Michael Jakobsen crush Sweden's Henrik Larsson, but nothing got in the way of Morten Olsen's team as they progressed to the World Cup finals with a 1-0 win against their Scandinavian rivals

A cut above...Porto's Radamel Falcao leaves the pitch after a clash with Sporting Lisbon's Tonel

Prayer meeting...members of the Egypt Under-20 World Cup squad give thanks after defeating Trinidad & Tobago

Ouch!...Stuttgart defender Arthur Boka feels the full force of team-mate Matthieu Delpierre as Werder Bremen's Claudio Pizarro watches on

Making a splash...Argentina's World Cup coach Diego Maradona celebrates his side's late winner against Peru

Irish anguish...Liam Lawrence lies distraught after Italy's late equaliser left the Republic of Ireland facing a World Cup play-off

Reffin' hell...how many people does it take to control a football game? Five, if you are playing in this season's Europa League

Brian Glanville

...on English football's problem with wingers...shades of Billy Bunter at Portsmouth...gobbledegook from the FA... and more memories of Brian Clough

WHAT about wingers? The recent Chelsea-Liverpool match at Stamford Bridge provided confusing evidence. Chelsea for most of the game – arguably for all of it, since when they brought on Florent Malouda he operated despite his winger credentials largely inside – played without them and won, while Liverpool used no fewer than four of them and lost.

It might be argued that Liverpool's manager, Rafa Benitez, hardly made the best use of what he's got. It took 67 minutes before he sent on Yossi Benayoun, scorer of a recent hat-trick against Burnley, on the left, where he at once gave the attack a penetration which had been lacking before; even if, almost at the death, he did pull wide a perfect opportunity.

An interesting sidelight on Chelsea's tactics was that not only did they not employ wingers, but Ashley Cole, a famous overlapper down the left, seldom joined the attack, concentrating on defence.

Not that Chelsea ignored the flanks in attack; they in general, and Didier Drogba in particular, exploited them to great advantage. Indeed, both the Chelsea goals came from Drogba cutting in from the flanks, first from the left, then, with supreme pace and power, from the right, to make the chances first for Nicolas Anelka – also ready, willing and able to use the wings – then for Malouda.

You could hardly, then, accuse Chelsea of being "wingless wonders" – the epitaph applied in 1966 to Alf Ramsey's England team – a policy which, in the view of many purists, poisoned the wells of English football for years to come.

> "Fabio Capello's policy on wingers is somewhat hard to understand"

Even today, you crassly see wingers classified as midfielders, though it is true that they are obliged to work far harder up and down the flanks than the classical wingers of the past.

With the England team, Fabio Capello's policy on wingers is somewhat hard to understand. If he wants them, they are there in rare abundance. Aaron Lennon on the right has regained the ebullient form he showed in the last World Cup finals. James Milner, ambidextrous and such a success in Holland when he was called to the colours for the first time, plainly has what was known as a "big match temperament". The dynamic Theo Walcott is back again on Arsenal's right flank after wretched luck with injuries, while Shaun Wright-Phillips, though inconsistent, has sparkled often enough on England's right flank to deserve at least a place on the bench.

And yet, for reasons best known to Capello himself, David Beckham still gets into the squad, still makes his token appearances to win yet another cheap cap, still deprives the right flank – for all his calibrated crosses – of speed. The word now is that if Beckham manages to play regularly for Milan, his place on the plane to South Africa will be secure. Oh dear.

Red alert...Liverpool winger Albert Riera has no joy against Chelsea

HOW fit is a "fit and proper person"? Not so much, in the current instance, morally but financially? By the time you read this, Sulaiman Al Fahim's promised Portsmouth money will remain just that (shades of Billy Bunter's ever-expected postal order in those popular schoolboy stories). He was, if you remember – Sulaiman, not Bunter – the frontman in the tremendous takeover of Manchester City by Abu Dhabi plutocrats, though they later dealt him out of the game.

As it was, to pay their players at the beginning of October, Portsmouth had to rely on the charity of millionaire Ali Al Faraj while, Sulaiman insisted that, so to speak, the postal order would imminently arrive.

There were also rumours that previous owner Alexandre Gaydamak's father – whose problems with certain financial authorities elsewhere make it hard for him to leave Israel – may have issues with Faraj's company. Infinite

Comic character...Al Fahim

wheels within wheels; and both Pompey as a club and their resilient manager, Paul Hart, deserved far better than this.

THE Football Association, in recent times, seems to have gone for the outsider when it comes to choosing its chief executive. Mark Palios, it's true, once played for Tranmere Rovers, but his abysmal attempts, having been romantically involved with the office siren, to implicate Sven Goran Eriksson and exculpate himself, left a repugnant taste. Now, we have someone called Ian Watmore.

I am sure football is lucky to have him, but his education at Trinity, one of the most distinguished Cambridge colleges, doesn't seem to have perfected his command of the English language.

In a recent interview, he said: "What we have seen this season are the tentative signs of some issues on the fans' side of the equation." Eh? He went on, speaking of obscene chanting, to add: "We in football should think about ways in which we can exorcise that from the game – but without glorifying it?"

Glorifying? I suppose one can vaguely see what he means.

Later, he pursued: "When that fan ran on to the pitch at Old Trafford, that, to me, as a private individual, was a much more condemnatory act than what Bellamy did." Condemnatory?

As for dealing with the excesses of spectators, we ascend into the higher realms of waffle: "It's about clubs working in a dialogue with their fanbase and it's about fans regulating their own behaviour. It's about a holistic approach to behavioural change and that's something the FA can orchestrate."

We can only hope and pray. And what price Cambridge? Are there degrees in gobbledegook?

MILLWALL surely, in the meantime, deserved far better from the FA to be impugned over the violence – most of it outside – which took place at Upton Park when they met West Ham United in the League Cup. It has been pointed out that few clubs have tried as hard as Millwall – who it is true had generations of hooliganism among their fans to live down – to eliminate racism and violence.

As for what happened inside the ground, the mindless pitch invasions and the like, how could the West Ham stewards rather than a platoon of riot-trained coppers, be expected to deal with it? One can only reiterate that, once the fixture had been announced, the violent consequences were inevitable.

There can be times, however, when "the holistic approach", whatever that is, can be taken to extremes, if that is what we (or the Professor Stanley Unwin of our times) are presently talking about. When Fulham recently played at home to Basle of Switzerland in the fatuous new Europa League, two stewards approached a little group of Basle fans – a grandfather, a father and grandson – who were sitting quietly among home supporters, and expressed horror at the fact that they were prominently wearing red-and-blue Basle scarves. Put the scarves away, they were told, and don't celebrate if Basle score. A nearby Fulham fan, I am glad to say, advised them to do nothing of the sort, but simply to enjoy themselves.

The stewards, it appear, were hyperactive, though it should be said in their defence that, outside the ground, a tough, shaven-headed bunch of Basle ultras had been seen. I don't think the grandfather group came quite into that category.

IN *150 BC* (Hot Air Publishing, £18.99) Dave Armitage, football journalist and novelist, has collected memories of Brian Clough from players, journalists, even his gardener. A rounded and largely positive picture is delineated, though it can hardly be called warts and all. And I'm sorry to find Duncan Hamilton, author of a splendid memoir of Clough with whom he worked as a journalist for 20 years, going unmentioned. But if this book errs on the side of eulogy, it covers a commendable amount of ground with a wealth of anecdote. ●

Trouble...West Ham v Millwall in the League Cup

GOALS
WE'D LIKE TO SEE AGAIN...

Opportunist...Palermo

1 Martin Palermo, Boca Juniors v Velez Sarsfield
After the keeper fails to clear the ball sufficiently, the striker heads back into an empty net from 40 yards

2 Tommy Oren, Hamarkamaratene v Kongsvinger
Flicks the ball over his opponent's head and then volleys it into the top corner from 22 yards

3 Igor Gorbatenko, Russia Under-21 v Andorra Under-21
A shot from inside his own half hits the back of the net without bouncing

4 Janos Lazok, Vasas Budapest v Honved
Meeting the ball on the bounce on the edge of the penalty area, he beats his marker with a neatly cushioned header and then volleys home into the roof of the net

5 Nemanja Vucicevic, Hapoel Tel Aviv v Hapoel Be'er Sheva
A neat seven-pass build-up by the Israeli side is followed by a delicately chipped cross that is finished with a perfect volley into the top corner

AND TWO TO FORGET...

Sascha Burchert, Hertha Berlin v Hamburg
The substitute keeper tries to head clear, only to see the ball lobbed back over him into an empty net. Minutes later, the same thing happens again...

Off his head...Burchert

To see clips of these goals, visit www.worldsoccer.com

NUMBERS GAME

3million
euros demanded by Samuel Eto'o from Barcelona after his transfer to Internazionale – a sum equivalent to 15 per cent of the €20m transfer fee

16
year-old Iker Muniain of Athletic Bilbao became La Liga's youngest-ever scorer in a 2-2 draw at Valladolid

78,409
crowd at the Maracana for the derby between Flamengo and Fluminense

250m
euros – the release clause in Lionel Messi's new Barcelona contract

500,000
people who paid to watch England's World Cup qualifier against Ukraine via the internet

3,751
days between Martin Palermo's last appearance for Argentina, in the 1999 Copa America, and his next cap, in the World Cup qualifier against Peru

106
caps won by Henrik Larsson, who announced his international retirement (again) following Sweden's 1-0 defeat by Denmark

27
minutes played by Cristiano Ronaldo in Portugal's World Cup qualifying win over Hungary before being substituted with an ankle injury

REPORTS we couldn't make up

REF GETS THE FINGER

Massimo Busacca, Switzerland's best-known referee and a regular on the international circuit, was banned for three matches after gesturing at the crowd with his middle finger during a Swiss Cup match.

Busacca, who took charge of last season's Champions League Final between Barcelona and Manchester United, was caught out after *SonntagsBlick* newspaper printed a photograph of the gesture.

"During the game between FC Baden and Young Boys in the first round proper of the cup, the top level Swiss referee 'gave the finger' to fans who had insulted him," the Swiss federation said in a statement. Busacca issued an apology, saying he regretted his "anti-sporting gesture".

LACKING SIX APPEAL

A Bulgarian third division match was abandoned after only four minutes when injuries left an already depleted team with only six players on the pitch.

Home side Gigant Belene began their game against Chavdar Byala Slatina with only eight players, saying they were unable to field a fuller line-up due to a large number of injured and suspended players.

Gigant, second in the table before the match, were quickly reduced to six after two players sustained injuries, leaving referee Stoyan Denev no choice but to abandon the game.

Visiting Chavdar were awarded a 3-0 victory.

TWINS IN TROUBLE

Fans at the Cairo International Stadium witnessed an unusual piece of football history when Tahitian twins Lorenzo and Alvin Tehau were both sent off against Nigeria in the Under-20 World Cup. Lorenzo saw red eight minutes before half-time and his brother followed him in for an early bath with a quarter of an hour remaining.

Red faced...off goes Alvin Tehau (21) to join twin Lorenzo (20)

RUMOURS we'd like to believe

Barca target...Arda Turan

Newspapers in Turkey (*Milliyet*) and Spain (*As*) believe Barcelona are on the point of making a move for Galatasaray and Turkey attacking midfielder Arda Turan, who is under contract to the Istanbul club until 2012 and is also said to be attracting interest from Arsenal.

O Globo, usually a most reliable Brazilian source, claim Manchester United were so impressed by the performances of midfielder Alex Teixeira at the Under-20 World Cup that they are ready to do business with Vasco da Gama.

Corriere della Sera think there is mileage in the story that Internazionale are extremely keen on Lyon and France defensive midfielder Jeremy Toulalan. Inter's recruitment chief Marco Branca apparently likes the look of young Bordeaux left-back Benoit Tremoulinas too.

An increasingly insistent rumour in Germany concerns Schalke swooping for Ghana midfielder Stephen Appiah, who currently is unattached after quitting Fenerbahce last year. *Sport-Bild* have also heard a whisper that Bayern Munich are watching Spanish defenders Joan Capdevila of Villarreal and Sevilla's Fernando Navarro.

Paul Gardner

More substitutes means more puppet-master coaches

I'VE BEEN THINKING about substitutions – an exercise that has greatly upset me. My crystal ball tells me that it won't be long before coaches start demanding more substitutes. Of course, it will be the coaches from the rich clubs, those who already have more players than they know what to do with. So the ability to put a couple more players on the pitch – good players, of course – in each game will ease one of their major problems.

And, what the hell, why not have unlimited subs while we're about it, with re-entry permitted? The fans want to see the players at their fittest and the growing injury lists for the top teams strongly suggest that it's all getting too much for the players.

So let them rest during each game, 10 minutes or so now and then, until they can go back into the game, fully refreshed and play at their best, rather than looking worn out and risking some sort of injury.

I do believe there is a strong case to be made for allowing an extra substitution when games go into extra time. And I also believe goalkeepers should be treated as a separate category (which they clearly are) and that the substitution of a keeper should be allowed without counting against the total number of subs, which at present stands at three.

Actually, that stingy total is for official matches only. Even national teams can, by agreement with each other in friendly games, use up to six subs. Even more can be used in club games. We're already in an era where promiscuous substitutions reign. And I've yet to hear a coach complain of too many subs being allowed in a game.

It is precisely the role of the coach in all of this that causes me to gnash my teeth and rend my garments. I don't believe the insidious relationship between substitutions and coaching was ever foreseen. Back in the days before there were any subs, the idea was scorned because there was something unmanly about it, and maybe an unscrupulous coach would send out a hatchet man to crock a dangerous opponent, and then immediately sub the hatchet man. I'm not sure anyone really believed that, but it was talked about. So subs were not only namby-pamby, they were also a form of cheating.

What swung the tide was the perfectly reasonable argument that a team should be able to replace a seriously injured player. We didn't see the coach as being involved in that, but this was the thin end of the ghastly coaching wedge. For the coach had to decide which player to bring on.

In no time at all, the number rose to three and the coach was now deciding not only who came on, but who came off, and when. Forget about injuries, substituting was now a huge part of tactics and the coach was pulling the strings.

This string pulling soon went way beyond subs – it had to go on constantly throughout every game. In 1993 the coaches got their way and for the first time the rules allowed them to coach from the sidelines (despite a rule strictly banning it, they'd been doing it anyway). The era of the puppet-master, yelling and waving his arms like a lunatic, had arrived.

"The rules are coach-friendly and will get more so once the demand for another sub or two is heard"

The sideline shenanigans got so bad that even FIFA, ever willing to indulge coaches, had to take action. The ridiculously named "technical area" was introduced in 1997 and even more ridiculous limitations were imposed: all the coaching staff should sit sedately on the bench – but one of them, just one at a time, could get up and move forward to "convey tactical instructions". As soon as he'd done that, he was to return to the bench.

Coaches, of course, ignored that, frequently staying on their feet for long periods while they ranted and raved, all in the name of "conveying tactical instructions". FIFA has given way on this one, too. This season's rules allow the "one person" to stay on his feet; he does not have to return to the bench.

All subs together...Tottenham and Olympiakos get ready for a change about

Rule 5 allows a referee to "take action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner." He may "at his discretion, expel them from the field of play". That is an uncommon occurrence – and when Arsenal's Arsene Wenger was so banished this season, he found he had nowhere to go but clamber into the stands alongside the spectators behind his bench.

No, the rules are not designed, or even well thought out, when it comes to punishing coaches. They are coach-friendly and will, I suspect, get more so when the demand for another substitute or two makes itself heard. I fear we are headed into a surplus-sub era. And why not? After all, what difference does it make if it's four rather than three?

My counter-argument is that such a move will increase the influence and importance of the coaches – and I just *know* that will do nothing positive for the sport. But I greatly regret not being able to come up with anything more convincing. ●

Jim Holden

Gambling with football's integrity

THE INTEGRITY of football is under severe threat. What other conclusion can be drawn from news revealed by UEFA that it is investigating 40 separate cases of suspected match fixing in the Champions League and the UEFA Cup, its two elite competitions?

What other conclusion can be drawn from the English Premier League warning all its clubs of illegal betting spies infesting under-18 academy matches on which millions of pounds are being wagered in the Far East?

The greatest threat to any sport is corruption by match fixing. If a team, or some of the players in a team, deliberately lose matches then there is no game at all and sport becomes worthless.

Yes, football is under threat. That much is clear to anyone with open eyes – and now UEFA's eyes are beginning to open too.

A catalogue of 40 matches under suspicion is a frightening number. These are not isolated instances, but a growing culture of deceit.

"Right now it's mainly eastern European clubs being investigated," said Peter Limacher, UEFA's head of disciplinary services.

"They know they are not going to be involved later in the tournament, so they decide, 'let's make a profit'. In the cases we've seen, it is the result of the game being fixed."

Earlier this year a Macedonian club, FK Pobeda, were banned from European club competition for eight years after being found guilty of deliberately losing a match. It does not appear to have been much of a deterrent.

And if UEFA is correct, and the motivation is the greed of small clubs who feel they have no chance of beating big teams, how long will this take to reach the high-profile group stage of the Champions League where there are currently concerns about too many mismatches and the result appearing obvious in advance?

Corrupt gamblers make fortunes by knowing the correct result and correct scoreline, particularly if there is an unusual 4-0 or 5-0, for example.

There is another threat, too. With an increasing number of clubs in the major western European leagues now facing financial problems, how tempting may it become for hard-pressed owners to succumb to losing games because the profit from match fixing will ease their cash worries?

It is only one logical step along from the current situation.

Football betting is now a vast global industry, legal and illegal, with a mountainous growth in the past decade. The more money that is gambled, the more scope there is for corruption – and the more need for scrutiny and caution within the game.

How bad is the problem? The revelation that English under-18 academy matches have been targeted for a while suggests the tentacles of crime are deep and widespread. After months of rumours and whispers the Premier League sent a warning letter to all clubs demanding they be vigilant about spies at their games who were monitoring events for illegal Far East betting concerns.

Fulham's academy boss Huw Jennings says: "We have seen spies at our games and we have informed the authorities. It's a really serious state of affairs when we see gambling on events involving youths."

UEFA and the Premier League, as organisations, are not hiding from the significance of the problem. They are aware of the dangers, aware of its seriousness, and starting to instigate more scrutiny than ever before. Yet how much caution is there truly?

Big money game... betting in Hong Kong

The flip side is that professional football across the globe actively seeks and gains sponsorship cash from betting firms. In promoting gambling on the game there is, at the very least, an ethical dilemma to be considered.

A number of Premier League clubs have gambling firms as shirt sponsors (see Numbers, page 22). All the rest, every single one, have minor sponsorship deals with betting companies. Around Europe it's the same story. An Austrian-based gambling firm, bwin, is a sponsor of Real Madrid, Milan and Bayern Munich.

The dilemma is neatly summarised in UEFA's own official position, stated thus: "Betting is a source of funding for football, but also a risk for football, especially to the integrity of competitions. It is only right that football obtains its fair share of income from betting, but our primary focus must continue to be a total commitment to protecting our sporting integrity."

> "How tempting may it become for hard-pressed owners to succumb to losing because the profit from match fixing will ease their cash worries?"

The question is clear: how much of a gamble is it for football to accept betting sponsorship money and thereby help to feed the most significant threat to the integrity of the game?

It would be foolish to say there is a simple answer, but a cautious approach would be the wisest policy – certainly more circumspection than there is today. Greed for cash, and the need for cash, surely has healthy limits.

Given the frightening scale of match fixing and potential corruption that has been revealed in the last month or two, a profound reassessment of football's relationship with the world of gambling is now required. ●

HEROES...

Generous offer...Riquelme

JUAN ROMAN RIQUELME
The former Argentina international agreed to play out the final year of his contract with Boca Juniors without receiving a wage.

DAVID DE GEA
The 18-year-old Atletico Madrid goalkeeper saved a penalty on his La Liga debut in the 2-1 win against Real Zaragoza.

RICHARD DUNNE
The Aston Villa defender respectfully refused to celebrate his goal against his old club, Manchester City. Are you watching, Emmanuel Adebayor?

& VILLAINS

DENNIS WISE
The ex-Newcastle director forced former manager Kevin Keegan's resignation after requesting that he sign a player, Ignacio Gonzalez, who he had only seen on YouTube, as a favour to agents.

BRUNEI GOVERNMENT
FIFA imposed a worldwide ban on Brunei's national team and club sides after their FA was disbanded following government intervention.

JENS LEHMANN
The Stuttgart goalkeeper Jens Lehmann was suspended by his club after he was spotted at Munich's beer festival hours after a defeat by Koln.

KIM CHRISTENSEN
IFK Gothenburg's keeper was facing a hefty punishment after TV cameras caught him kicking his goalposts in a bid to make his goal smaller.

Caught on camera...Christensen

THE GENERATION GAME

A THIRD generation of footballing Cruyffs has emerged at Barcelona. After Johan and Jordi, now there is Joshua Angoy Cruyff.

The left-sided defender, who is 16, is the son of Johan's daughter, Chantal, and made his debut for Barcelona's juvenil B last month.

The original...Johan

Johan's son...Jordi

The new kid...Joshua Angoy

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12 STORIES YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

DENMARK
Rio celebrates 2016 decision
Rio de Janeiro's victory in the race to host the 2016 Olympics could help preparations for the 2014 World Cup. More, page 20

ENGLAND
Warner's 2018 warning
CONCACAF president Jack Warner used a trip to London to criticise England's 2018 World Cup bid. More, page 18

SPAIN
Golden double
Atletico Madrid striker Diego Forlan was presented with his second ESM Golden Shoe as Europe's top goalscorer last season. More, page 68

IVORY COAST
Elephants march on
Ivory Coast drew 1-1 with Malawi to secure their place at next summer's World Cup. More, page 56

CHILE
La Roja reach South Africa
While Argentina struggled, Chile beat Colombia 4-2 to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1998. More page, 58

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Paying the price
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Miro on target
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HEADLINERS

People in the news...on and off the pitch

Miroslav Klose

Bayern striker on target as Germany book World Cup ticket

GERMANY

Despite an excellent strike rate with the *Nationalmannschaft* (47 goals in 91 games prior to the Moscow trip) and a reputation for delivering on the big occasion (10 goals in the World Cup finals of 2002 and 2006), the Bayern Munich front man was the last person German sportswriters were expecting to shine in the decisive World Cup eliminator against Russia on the artificial turf of the Luzhniki Stadium.

Goalless in the Bundesliga this season and not sure of an automatic Bayern berth – coach Louis Van Gaal has more often than not preferred Mario Gomez or Croatia's Ivica Olic at the point of attack – Klose has been a man under severe pressure in recent weeks, with many questioning his right to still feature for Germany.

But cometh the hour, cometh the man and, with Germany needing a result in the shadow of the Kremlin, Klose got ahead of his marker on 34 minutes to bundle home Mesut Ozil's low, inviting centre. Cue his trademark somersault celebration.

In one clinical sequence, the 31-year-old Klose showed just why Germany are the masters of the qualification process, why they are so impregnable in competitive fixtures far from base. While Russia wasted chance after chance, he made sure he capitalised on his.

Germany boss Joachim Low can only be pleased he did not heed the advice of the anti-Klose lobby. There was a time when the *Bundestrainer* subscribed to the view that all would-be internationals play regularly for their clubs. Not any longer. Whether Klose starts every week for Bayern or not, Low knows only too well that he cannot do without him. As the team's top scorer in the World Cup qualifiers and the second-most-capped player in the squad behind skipper Michael Ballack, the Poland-born striker is absolutely irreplaceable.

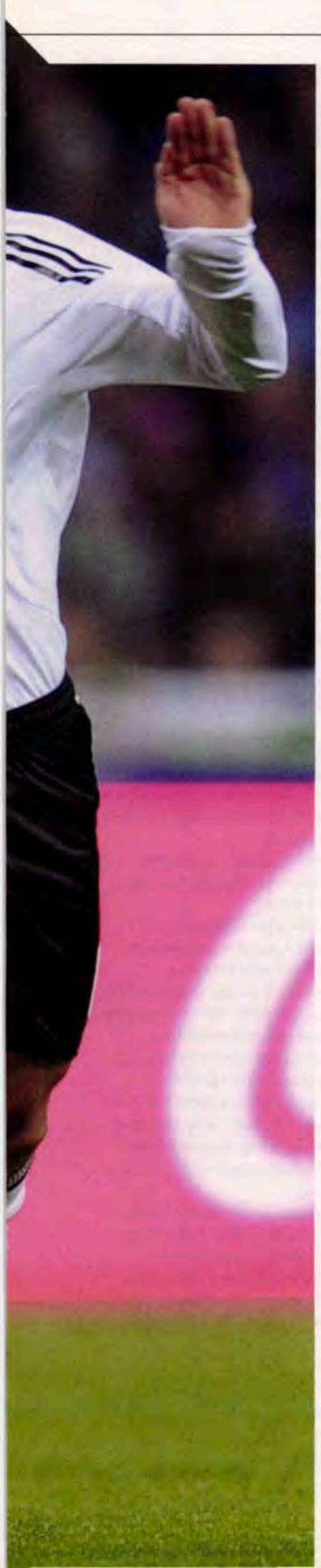
"At a club like Bayern it is a squad game and I don't believe they will want to turn their backs on Klose's qualities," says Low. "We know what we have in Miro, what he has achieved in the past and what he can continue to do for us."

Never one for histrionics or to make "play me or lose me" noises, Klose attributes his sluggish club form to a knee ligament injury he suffered last spring. He claims he has yet to return to full fitness, arguing that instead of a pre-season diet of exhibition games, he needed a more strenuous physical-conditioning programme.

"I'm my biggest critic," he admits. "I realise my performances of late have been bad and I know why. When I'm 100 per cent fit, I have no doubts about making the starting line-up of the national team and Bayern."

Nick Bidwell

South Africa here we come...Klose celebrates his goal against Russia



All over...Donadoni

Roberto Donadoni
Unlucky ex-*Azzurri* boss sacked by Napoli

ITALY

"He's a volcano, someone who knows very little about our world. He needs to learn a lot. He doesn't really know what goes on in the dressing room."

Roberto Donadoni was talking about Aurelio De Laurentiis, the 60-year-old movie mogul and Napoli owner who, just hours previously, had sacked him as coach, replacing him with the former Reggina and Sampdoria boss Walter Mazzarri.

If Donadoni's words inevitably sound like sour grapes, then he is perhaps entitled to feel a little miffed.

Three years ago, the former Milan and Italy player featured in one of the most incomprehensible sackings of the time. After being rudely criticised by his team owner, Aldo Spinelli, on TV, he was left with little option but to offer his resignation as Livorno coach, despite having guided the modest club to a lofty sixth place in the table.

Donadoni did not remain unemployed for long, however. When Italy's World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi opted for a well-earned sabbatical in the wake of his labours in Germany, Donadoni was the surprise choice to replace him.

In a negative climate weighed down by the Calciopoli match-fixing scandal, Donadoni's task in qualifying for Euro 2008 was not as straightforward as might have been expected. On the eve of the tournament, the Italian football federation arranged for Donadoni to present former England World Cup winner and ex-Ireland manager Jack Charlton with a memorial watch in Rome in recognition of Charlton's great career.

As the two men chatted that day, Donadoni asked Charlton if he would be travelling to Austria and Switzerland to watch the football. "No way. I'll be off fishing next month," said Charlton.

"Yeah, well if things don't work out well for me next month in Austria and Switzerland, I might come and join you," quipped Donadoni.

"Things", of course, did not work out well at Euro 2008. The Italians went out at the quarter-final stage, beaten on penalties by eventual European champions Spain. For the previous three months, Donadoni's position had been made difficult by consistent media speculation that, barring an Italian success at Euro 2008, he would be replaced by his illustrious predecessor, Lippi.

Lippi did indeed replace him in July 2008. Then there was the question of Donadoni's severance package. Reports had suggested that he would receive €460,000 as compensation if his contract was not renewed after Euro 2008. In the end, though, Donadoni missed out on that too since on the evening prior to the quarter-final clash with Spain, he agreed to forgo the severance pay in return for the renewal of his contract if Italy beat Spain. Unfortunately for him, that gamble did not pay off.

Yet again, though, Donadoni did not remain unemployed for long. He was back in full-time football by March this year, taking over from Edoardo Reja at Napoli. Despite a promising initial impact, things have not worked out for Donadoni in Naples this season with the club in 15th position on just seven points from seven games when he was relieved of his duties.

Not one to scream and shout, Donadoni does not fit the media bill in today's histrionic, self-promotional world of football management. However, when it comes to getting players to play for him, he is another product of the Lippi-Capello-Ancelotti school of management.

Don't be surprised if, come next season – in the Italian top flight a sacked coach cannot join another club in the same season – Donadoni is back on a Serie A bench.

Paddy Agnew

Jack Warner
Outspoken CONCACAF chief criticises England World Cup bid

ENGLAND

JACK WARNER is the one-time history teacher from Trinidad and Tobago whose views, opinions and influence – not on the past but on the future – have turned him into one of the liveliest entertainers on the FIFA circuit.

Warner's steady rise through the corridors of football power brought him to the presidency of CONCACAF and thus into a FIFA vice-presidency.

However, the fact that Warner's constituency is on the American side of the Atlantic does not inhibit him from speaking out on issues outside of his immediate scope of operation.

Thus he is equally at home offering England some fatherly advice on how to run a World Cup bidding campaign as he is telling Michel Platini how UEFA needs to set a worldwide example on controlling football finance, and then advising Sepp Blatter on how FIFA, via the International Board, should employ technological aides.

Warner said: "When I was in Rio de Janeiro at the last FIFA executive meeting my colleagues were talking about [the bids from] Spain, Russia, Qatar and the United States, but not many were talking about England. I see England as creeping along. Please start galloping because, for some people a marathon is much easier to win than a 100-yard sprint."

On walking into the Leaders In Football conference in London, Warner noted that he had been handed a bag sponsored by the Australian World Cup bid and had walked past a booth run by Qatar 2022. He saw no sign of any England promotion in the country's own capital.

Following up, Warner denied that CONCACAF's three votes, when the executive decides the World Cup issue in December 2010, had been pledged already. He said: "The CONCACAF votes have not been assigned to anyone except possibly to the United States when the time comes. Disabuse yourself of any other belief. Any talk that we are bound just because England played a centenary match in my country of Trinidad and Tobago a year or two ago is not the truth.

"I have an empathy and understanding for England but it must understand it has no divine right to host the World Cup – it has to earn that."

Widening the theme, Warner warned all bidders that FIFA would pay special attention to legacy plans to encourage and develop the grass-roots game.

He said: "The bid projects should go beyond development at home only and be extended out to developing nations too. In December 2010, when the vote is taken in Zurich, CONCACAF will cast its votes based on the good of the sport – and the good of CONCACAF."

In turning his attention to European football, Warner also hinted – with World Cup bidding in mind, but not mentioned directly – that it was not only UEFA but the English Premier League which needed to sharpen up its worldwide outreach.

Warner believes that UEFA and English football have been asleep while an incursion of wealthy businessmen means that eight of the 10 richest club owners in the world have major investments in the Premier League.

These, of course, include Chelsea's Russian owner Roman Abramovich, the Glazer family at Manchester United, as well as Tom Hicks and George Gillett at Liverpool, and the increasing number of Gulf interests.

English clubs had been major beneficiaries of an affluent owner phenomenon and Warner has insisted regulatory action is needed to "level the playing field". He is urging the imposition of a salary cap to avert situations such as in the Premier League where "four clubs have been dominant over the past decade and will be until doomsday" unless change were to be enforced.

Warner also advocated player-nationality quotas so "local territories can benefit from the current affluence in football".

He added: "I would call on all federations, especially those in UEFA, to act as regulators in promoting the notion of football having a responsibility to society. Some sanctions should be employed to safeguard the clubs' financial integrity.

"In Europe clubs should be banned from European competitions for excessive debt. This would force owners to make more prudent economic decisions and level the playing field. For the sake of the future of football, something must be done to deal with club debts. We must sit and talk to ensure that football is the winner not only now but for the future."

Finally, with a concern Alex Ferguson might appreciate about taking time-keeping away from referees, Warner suggested football should consider moving with the times and introducing real time. Not only that, but short-time sin bins for divers, larger goals and reducing teams to 10 players each.

He said: "There is no reason the game should remain static for another 500 years. As leaders we must allow the game to evolve. Technology is the way of life for the future and we should embrace it – not as our master but as our aid."

Keir Radnedge

Get a move on...Warner tells the Leaders in Football conference that England's 2018 bid is only "creeping along"

We'll never forget you...football fans in Toulouse march in tribute to Taton

Brice Taton
French football mourns Toulouse fan killed by Belgrade thugs

FRANCE

BRICE TATON died 1,500 kilometres from where he lived – in a hospital in the Serbian capital of Belgrade – on Tuesday, September 29. He had been in a critical condition for the past 12 days after being set upon and brutally beaten by around 30 so-called supporters of Partizan Belgrade. His crime? Being a supporter of French club Toulouse and being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Taton, 28, had followed his home-town side to Serbia for a Europa League match and had the fatal misfortune of drinking outside the Irish Bar in the centre of Belgrade on the afternoon of the game when local thugs attacked with iron bars and baseball bats. Despite a number of emergency operations, Taton's injuries were so severe that he never recovered, leaving French football in a state of shock at such a senseless and unexpected death.

In the aftermath of the attack Toulouse denounced what it called the "unspeakable violence", while offering its unstinting support to the victim's family. The club's players wore T-shirts in support of Taton and fans unfurled banners at home games willing him a speedy recovery. Sadly it was all in vain and when Taton's death was announced the French football community was quick to condemn the perpetrators.

"It's a terrible crime," said UEFA president Michel Platini. "And it's all the more tragic that a fan should lose his life simply because he followed his favourite team abroad." Platini pledged to continue the fight against "all those who use football to perpetrate senseless acts of violence".

French interior minister Brice Hortefeux, recognising that football hooliganism remains a problem that respects no borders, announced the creation of a police task force dedicated to tackling the problem. The decision was taken after a meeting between government officials, various high-ranking police, French football administrators and the governors of each region where a top-flight football team exists.

The National Anti-Hooliganism Division has been formed to "help co-ordinate the sharing of information with those responsible for security inside the grounds in order to better identify those individuals involved in hooliganism and to help bring them to justice".

All clearly welcome, though sadly too late to help Brice Taton, whose shocking death again highlights the need for everyone who loves the sport to remain forever vigilant in the face of football-related violence.

Howard Johnson

Ronaldinho
Struggling for form in a poor Milan side

ITALY

MILAN'S poor start to the season has been mirrored by the fading form of their Brazilian star Ronaldinho.

The former World Player of the Year came off the bench to score a late equaliser against 10-man Atalanta in early October and in doing so salvaged a 1-1 draw for Milan. But it may not have been enough to save his own faltering reputation nor reverse Milan's declining fortunes.

A few days earlier, Ronaldinho had again been a half-time substitute as Milan suffered a humiliating 1-0 home defeat by Zurich in the Champions League.

The result added to the pressure on rookie coach Leonardo, who has struggled to find a winning formula for the club following the summer departures of former coach Carlo Ancelotti and star players Kaka and Paolo Maldini.

Just as during his final days at Barcelona, Ronaldinho's nocturnal activities have come under scrutiny. Leonardo defended his star, saying he faces pressures that lesser players do not have. But he admitted: "Ronaldinho is not doing what he did three years ago."

Ronaldinho was last called up by Brazil coach Dunga in April and hopes of making next summer's World Cup squad are fading fast. The expected return to Milan of another ageing star, David Beckham, will only add to the pressure.

John Holmesdale

Superstar on the wane...Ronaldinho has failed to live up to expectations in Milan

Keir Radnedge

Joao's back – at 93

Former FIFA president Havelange played a key role in Rio de Janeiro's successful Olympic bid

THOUGHT YOU had seen the last of Joao Havelange when he stepped down, after 24 years, as FIFA president in Paris in June 1998? Thought his influence in the corridors of power was fading? Thought his ability to lead and command was on the wane?

Bad mistake. Havelange was back in triumph in Copenhagen when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) duly obeyed him and chose Rio de Janeiro to host the summer Games in 2016. Never, ever, write off Jean-Marie "Joao" Faustin Goedefroid de Havelange.

Punished for that mistake were the assorted politicians, business leaders and sports bosses of Chicago and the United States, Madrid and Spain, and Tokyo and Japan.

Havelange was in the Danish capital to speak up for the Rio delegation competing against those three other cities for the 100-plus votes of the IOC. Chicago (and President Barack Obama) fell first, then Tokyo.

Hence the third and final round of voting came down to a fascinating personal showdown between Havelange, aged 93, and Madrid's 89-year-old Juan Antonio Samaranch, the all-powerful president of the IOC from 1980 to 2001.

That Havelange and Rio emerged as 66-32 winners was a triumph for both men: Havelange because he finished up with the winning vote and Samaranch because, without his influence behind the scenes in the last hours, Madrid would not have come anywhere near as close.

Power of persuasion...Havelange puts Brazil's case to the IOC in Copenhagen

JOAO HAVELANGE: I have a dream...

"I have seen the unique power our movement has to change cities, countries and the lives of **millions of people** and to make history. I have also witnessed dramatic change in every aspect of **Brazilian life.** Now I have a dream of seeing **history being made in 2016** when I hope to celebrate the first **Olympic Games in South America** by inviting all of you to join me, in my city, in the new Brazil, for my **100th birthday.**"

Perhaps Havelange was rewarded for being positive. He had told the IOC that he would be 100 in 2016 and wanted all the members to join him at the Rio Games for his birthday party.

Samaranch, by contrast, had pointed out that he was coming towards the end of his life and would the IOC grant him one last wish?

Contrast in words, contrast in attitudes, contrast in styles.

Havelange will also have taken away from Copenhagen the satisfaction of knowing that Rio's success was also a valuable weapon for FIFA as regards Brazil's 2014 World Cup hosting. (One also assumes that Sepp Blatter – an IOC member courtesy of being FIFA president – voted for Rio, though a secret ballot means this will remain ever uncertain).

Thus Brazil, its government and sporting authorities will come under double focus: a pincer movement of Swiss-based scrutiny from FIFA in Zurich and now also from the Lausanne-headquartered IOC.

Rotation system

The lingering doubt over Brazil's 2014 World Cup staging was that the country had it too easy in securing the responsibility. FIFA's internal politics had demanded the institution of a host rotation system to ensure the 2010 World Cup went to South Africa. The consequential fallout meant guaranteeing 2014 to South America – for which Brazil was the only country with the economic and social potential to bid.

Argentina dared not bid and co-hosting among any of their CONMEBOL companions was never an option. Thus Brazil landed 2014 on a walkover. The Brazilian federation had to make comparatively little effort and a concern has remained about the depth of the country's commitment to upgrading stadia, infrastructure,

Read more from Keir Radnedge at worldsoccer.com

technology and the rest. Now FIFA is not alone in progress chasing as the IOC will be on the case as well.

Indeed, the IOC has an extra concern above and beyond all its own: a significant minority among its 100-plus members had fretted that the World Cup hosting might detract and distract Brazil from devoting full attention to the Olympic project.

Presumably, IOC president Jacques Rogge will ensure that his Brazilian hosting legacy (he steps down in 2013) is a credible one.

Rio, certainly sensitive to the unique prospect of following a World Cup with the Olympics – Mexico (Mexico City Games in 1968, World Cup in 1970), then West Germany (Munich Games 1972, World Cup 1974) did it the other way round – had sought to persuade the IOC that the World Cup would be of positive, not negative, value in building on towards an Olympic Games in Rio.

Absent Pele

Football-linked uncertainties over the World Cup meant that, while Pele accompanied the Rio team to Copenhagen and led some of the pre-vote publicity events, he was notably absent from the group who spoke directly to the members of the IOC on the morning of the vote.

Of course, however, he rushed to join in the celebrations after the vote had been announced live on worldwide television by Rogge.

Personally, Pele had never had any doubts. He said: "When I was playing for Brazil, between the 1950s and 1970s, we could not play in the Olympic Games because we were professional and the Games were supposed to be for amateurs. By the time the rules changed it was too late for me – so now I want to share the Olympic experience in a different way."

Now the Brazilians – in the form of Rio – are hosting the Olympics, that must surely give their national team the perfect platform from which to win the one international title which has always eluded them. Their potential out on the pitch is beyond question; the only doubts centre on issues such as administration, infrastructure and finance.

Brazil's president Luiz Inacio Lula is confident – as properly befits a man who can share with Havelange the satisfaction of having defeated Obama. Lula, having shed his own tears of joy, said: "Brazil needs these Olympic Games. There are no happier and more creative people than Brazilians. They deserve all these wonderful opportunities which are coming our way." Roll on, then, the Sports Decade of Brazil. ●

View of the future?...The city of Doha (top) and its showpiece Khalifa stadium

The case for Qatar

QATAR MAY SEEM an unlikely country to harbour the ambition of hosting the World Cup finals in 2022, and outsiders will have a caricatured view of the Gulf state as being just Doha and desert. But the Middle East is beginning to make its presence felt in the world game.

Asian confederation president Mohamed Bin Hammam no less, Sepp Blatter's most powerful backer in the 1998 FIFA presidential election, comes from Qatar, and the Club World Cup in December this year and next will be staged not so far off, in Abu Dhabi.

Hassan Al Thawadi – Qatar's bid chief executive whose student days in England taught him the no less esoteric ways of life in Scunthorpe – is pulling all the levers available to breathe life into the project.

"Qataris love football and the idea of bringing the World Cup here one day has always been our dream," he says. "We have evaluated our strengths and our weaknesses and we feel very, very prepared. That goes for everyone: from His Highness the Emir, to the government, to the public."

Qatar does have world tournament experience, having taken on – successfully, at short notice – the hosting of the 1995 World Youth Cup.

"We have seen progress in leaps and bounds over the last 10 years in so many different areas," says Al Thawadi. "We are pioneers and among world leaders in the fields of oil and gas, infrastructure, building, everything. It's all given us the self-belief about being able to provide a unique experience for the World Cup – unique both for ourselves and for the Middle East.

"The region is a perfect place for the hosts for 2022. FIFA took a brave step in taking the World Cup out to South Africa next year. Now it has an opportunity to maintain that visionary work by making a great statement, a historic decision, to come to the Middle East."

Qatar, says Al Thawadi, has the capacity to build all the necessary stadia and it has the technology to lower the air temperature around players and fans both in the grounds and in the fan zones.

Here, for long-serving World Cup bid watchers, comes the most innovative concept of all: Qatar is proposing "the compact World Cup". Every fan, if he or she wishes, will be able to travel from their hotel to any match of any team and return in the same day.

That is probably a boast no other country has been able to make since Jules Rimet scratched around to find 12 nations to go to Uruguay for the inaugural World Cup 79 years ago, in Montevideo, in 1930.

Back to the future then, with FIFA and the 2022 World Cup?

It's an intriguing idea.

27 BIGGEST

Who gets paid the most money to wear their sponsor's logo?

Big players...Wolfsburg and Schalke

1 LIVERPOOL
ENGLAND
£20.25M A YEAR
Standard Chartered bank, four years from next season

Setting the Standard...Liverpool

2 MANCHESTER UNITED
ENGLAND
£20M
Aon, American insurance company, four years from next season

3= REAL MADRID
SPAIN
£16.6M
Bwin, European gambling website, deal recently extended for another three years

3= BAYERN MUNICH
GERMANY
£16.6M
Bwin, European gambling website, until 2010

3= WOLFSBURG
GERMANY
£16.6M
Volkswagon, ongoing deal with club owners VW

3= SCHALKE
GERMANY
£16.6M
Gazprom, Russian gas company, until 2012

7 CHELSEA
ENGLAND
£13M
Samsung, Korean electronics firm, until 2013

8 MILAN
ITALY
£10M
Bwin, European gambling website, until 2010

9 JUVENTUS
ITALY
£9.1M
New Holland, FIAT subsidiary, until 2010

Worth a punt...Spurs

10 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
ENGLAND
£8.5M
Mansion, US gambling company, until 2010

11= WERDER BREMEN
GERMANY
£7.3M
Citibank, until 2010

11= BORUSSIA DORTMUND
GERMANY
£7.3M
Evonik, German chemicals company, until 2011

SHIRT DEALS

Pumped up...Marseille

13 MARSEILLE
FRANCE
£6.8M
Direct Energie, French energy company, until 2010

14 INTERNAZIONALE
ITALY
£6.6M
Pirelli, tyre manufacturers, long-term deal

15= HAMBURG
GERMANY
£5.5M
Emirates, Middle Eastern airline, until 2012

15= ROMA
ITALY
£5.5M
Wind, Italian communications company, until 2010

17= STUTTGART
GERMANY
£5.1M
EnBW, energy company

High energy...Stuttgart

17= LEVERKUSEN
GERMANY
£5.1M
TelDaFax, telecoms and energy provider, until 2010

Driving ambition...Inter

Even money...Man City and Arsenal

19= ARSENAL
ENGLAND
£5M
Emirates, part of a wider deal that also includes the club's stadium naming rights

19= MAN CITY
ENGLAND
£5M
Etihad, UAE national airline, three-year deal from this season

19= HERTHA BERLIN
GERMANY
£5M
Deutsche Bahn, German rail company, until 2011

19= EINTRACHT FRANKFURT
GERMANY
£5M,
Fraport, airport operator, since 2001

23 PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN
FRANCE
£3.6M
Emirates, Middle Eastern airline, until 2014

24 BORDEAUX
FRANCE
£3.2M
KIA, Korean motor company

25 FULHAM
ENGLAND
£3M
LG, electronics firm, three-year deal until 2010

26 EVERTON
ENGLAND
£2.6M
Chang beer, Thai brewery, three-year deal until 2011

27 SUNDERLAND
ENGLAND
£2.5M
Boylesports, Irish betting firm, four-year deal until 2011

Good bet...Sunderland

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Slick Sevilla up the ante

Real Madrid's defeat at Sanchez Pizjuan suggests the Liga contest will not be as straightforward as some suggest

SPAIN

SID LOWE in Madrid

AND ON THE eighth day, Real Madrid lost. La Liga, on the other hand, won. After five wins out of five in the league, and two out of two in the Champions League, the only major team in Europe with a 100 per cent record finally fell. Madrid had enjoyed the best Primera Division start in their history, scoring 16 and conceding just three, while in Europe they had scored eight times in two games. But it had to end somewhere. And that somewhere was the Sanchez Pizjuan, Seville.

On a warm Sunday night, to a backdrop of the *Marseillaise* and the *Arrebato* – surely the best club anthem in Spanish football – it finished 2-1 to Sevilla with goals from Jesus Navas and Renato. But that hardly told the story of an extraordinary game. It certainly didn't do justice to a superb performance from Manolo Jimenez's team: a breathless display of pace, hunger and intensity, reminiscent of Juande Ramos' relentless side that so nearly won the league in 2007 as they powered to the Spanish Cup and a second successive UEFA Cup.

With the stadium clock long having stopped at 90 minutes, Sergio Ramos was played in. The Madrid full-back – who left Sevilla for the Spanish capital when president Florentino Perez paid his £24million buyout clause (plus tax) at the start of the 2005-06 season – had been whistled, booed and abused throughout the game. It was the perfect opportunity for him to take revenge; instead it became the perfect, dramatic finale for Sevilla's fans. Hearts in mouths, they had watched, relieved as the man they loved to hate blew it with the last kick of the match.

Off the pitch, the ball, which had come back off the side netting, was still moving when the referee Iturralde Gonzalez blew the final whistle. A huge roar went up; Madrid's players hit the deck, exhausted. Sevilla had secured a brilliant victory. This was more than just a match. The team whose entire starting XI cost less than half of Cristiano Ronaldo alone had beaten the new galacticos.

They had deserved it too. A Ramos equaliser would have been cruel. When Pepe equalised early in the second half, there was a sneaking suspicion that Madrid would go on to win. In the end, they didn't. In the end, there was justice. Sevilla had taken 11 shots to Madrid's two. After the match, Madrid coach Manuel Pellegrini admitted it had been a fair result. Freddie Kanoute insisted his side should have scored a few more. He was right. Their wastefulness as they launched fast break after fast break in the final 20 minutes stopped them adding to the score.

So too did Iker Casillas. One particular save, from Diego Perotti, who was only two yards out, had the 45,000 in the stadium and the millions watching at home shaking their heads in disbelief. Perotti could not believe it either. An orange blur had somehow flown across the goal line to block the ball, with sports daily *Marca* calculating Casillas had reached it in 0.16 seconds, covering almost the entire width of the goal. It was an astonishing feat of speed and agility.

"I don't believe it! That was incredible," screamed *Onda Madrid's* commentator from high in the

Sanchez Pizjuan. "Casillas is Superman!" The following day, the Madrid media likened it to Gordon Banks' famous save from Pele at the 1970 World Cup. Madrid's own television channel showed it on a loop. It certainly beat focusing on everything else that happened at the Sanchez Pizjuan. This was not Madrid's best night. "As bad as it gets," was the damning judgement of one newspaper.

Madrid simply couldn't handle Sevilla's speed and intensity. In particular they couldn't handle the two wingers as the home side crashed forward like an avalanche – Perotti on the left and Jesus Navas on the right. Kaka famously wears a T-shirt declaring: "I belong to Jesus." Well, he should lend it to his countryman Marcelo because, to use the vernacular, Jesus owned him. Poor Marcelo simply could not handle the 23-year-old Spaniard who spent the night dashing away from him and leapt over him to head the first goal. Navas, by the way, is barely 5ft 7in.

Three-point lead

With Madrid losing their first game of the season, Barcelona opened up a three-point lead, while Sevilla pulled level with Pellegrini's side in second as the season took a break for internationals. The timing could not have been worse for Madrid. The inquest began immediately; having previously played a game every three days, international week meant it was set to run for two long weeks.

The interpretations were legion, the debates furious. Few seemed prepared to write it off as just a defeat – and against a very good side who have got extremely good results against Madrid over the last few seasons. Fewer seemed prepared to concede it was still early days or that, as Pellegrini had insisted, Madrid remained a team in the making rather than the finished article. Perhaps winning seven out of seven at an average of more than three goals a game had been counterproductive; perhaps expectations had risen too soon.

Over in Catalonia they were gleefully heralding the match as proof that Madrid weren't really that good. "Madrid's first real test and they lose," declared *Sport*. After all, they reminded readers, Madrid's seven victories had come against Marseille,

We're on our way...Navas (7) is swamped by his team-mates after putting Sevilla ahead against Real Madrid

How did he do that?...Perotti can't believe Casillas has somehow blocked his point-blank effort

Zurich, Tenerife, Villarreal, Xerez, Espanyol and Deportivo. Not the most fearful of opponents. It was a telling remark – if only for what it said about the knife-edge Madrid tread, on which there are simply no grey areas.

Madrid had been without Ronaldo, the man who had scored five league goals already plus two in the Champions League. Some complained that defeat proved that Madrid suffered from *Ronaldodependencia*. The cover of the country's best-selling newspaper, *Marca*, the following morning read: "Ronaldo is mucho Ronaldo." Without the Portuguese, they said, "Madrid were a calamity."

As for Marcelo, he just isn't good enough, they said. One columnist called him a "defensive cancer". He had endured a torrid night but was not the only one at fault: Madrid yet again conceded from a set piece, something that Pellegrini admitted "worries me". Renato headed home, all alone, right in the centre of the six-yard box. Television cameras picked up an argument between Casillas and Guti in which the goalkeeper bemoaned the fact that Guti was "marking no one" and "doing nothing".

Lacking width and a clear, discernible style, Pellegrini did not escape criticism; there were even some calls for his head. Never Perez's first choice, not even the second, he could be forgiven for being concerned.

Perhaps the biggest bone of contention was Pellegrini's continuing policy of rotation. Rotation was fine, the critics insisted, but shouldn't the Chilean build his team first, lay the foundations of a system and a pattern before he starts resting players? "Madrid don't know yet if they're a push-bike, a motorbike or a car," one columnist complained.

Some suspect the rotation policy is an excuse to soften the impact of leaving captain Raul out, of excusing his occasional absences with the argument that Ronaldo and Kaka had sat out games too. There is a sense too of dissatisfaction at Pellegrini's apparent lack of faith in Karim Benzema, who admitted he preferred to play alongside a fixed striker, a No 9 (meaning, said most, not Raul).

Marca even claimed that Pellegrini had been forced to explain the defeat to the club's director general Jorge Valdano in the Sanchez Pizjuan dressing room. Made up? Possibly. Exaggerated, surely. But it was an eloquent comment on the special pressures that surround Real Madrid. The problem with Perez's huge project, with signing Ronaldo and Kaka, with spending £210m, is very simple – you have to win and win well. And when you don't, everyone will be waiting for you, knives at the ready.

> "For much of Spain, Sevilla's victory was the best thing that could have happened"

Food for thought...Madrid coach Pellegrini sees his team outplayed

Not everyone was upset. For much of Spain, Sevilla's victory was the best thing that could have happened. It was celebrated way beyond Andalucia – and not just because of the anti-Madridismo that has characterised many over the last few years.

Madrid went into week six in La Liga having won every game; Barcelona went into it in the same position. The night before Madrid's trip to Sevilla, they defeated Almeria. In 11 games neither had lost; neither had even been behind. Neither had really struggled. Barca's only dropped points were in the Champions League, in the goalless draw at Internazionale.

'Boring league'

The fear was that the Spanish league was becoming a two-team affair, one president complaining "it's all about Madrid and Barcelona – it's the most boring league in the world". The fear was not just that Madrid and Barcelona were the main contenders – that's normal – but that they were the only contenders; that the league would be decided purely on the two *clasicos*.

The logic was financial. Spain might have registered a record summer in terms of transfer spending but Madrid alone accounted for over half of it – £248m to Barcelona's £116m. The third biggest spenders, Sevilla, had spent just £24m. Only two other clubs had bought a single player for over £4.5m. Madrid's budget this season stands at £390m, Barcelona's at £375m, the next highest (Valencia) a quarter of that. And thanks to individually negotiated television rights, Madrid and Barca can pull in over £110m and £100m respectively a season, while the next highest (Atletico Madrid) make less than half of that.

It was all set up for a cakewalk to the title, a two-horse race with sadly familiar runners and riders. Victory for Madrid at the Pizjuan, against the only side able to keep up the pace, having won four in a row following an opening-day defeat, and most would be ready to throw in the towel already. But Sevilla came to the rescue. "We can be contenders," Jimenez declared. "I think we can genuinely challenge for the league title," added Kanoute.

People wanted to believe them before. Now they actually do. ●

Derby day...Fluminense's Adeilson shields the ball from Leonardo Moura of Flamengo in a league clash at the Maracana

Bad case of Flu

Problems mount for the relegation-haunted Rio giant

BRAZIL

TIM VICKERY in Rio de Janeiro

ROOTED TO THE foot of the table and staring relegation in the face, these are dark days for fans of Fluminense who had looked forward to this latest season with so much expectation.

With national team striker Fred having been enticed home from French side Lyon to lead the attack and 1994 World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira at the helm, things got off to a flying start with a 1-0 win over Sao Paulo – champions for the last three years.

But the next 26 league games brought just three more wins, and as the club hurtled down the table a major administrative crisis started to become apparent.

Fluminense have invested in their youth development facilities over recent years in order to produce their own players. Two of their latest starlets, centre-back Dalton and striker Maicon, are deemed so important this term that the club, unsuccessfully, tried to withdraw them from the Brazil squad competing in the Under-20 World Cup in Egypt.

But while young talent augurs well for the future, keeping the club competitive in the short term has been the job of its partner Unimed, the health service provider, which has tended to favour the signing of big-name veterans.

Conciliating the perspectives of club and partner is possible when the team is winning or having a decent run in the Libertadores Cup (in which they reached the Final last year, only to lose on penalties). But over time it becomes much more complicated. As Fred picked up a long-term injury and his strike partner, Leandro Amaral, fell victim to knee problems once more, so sponsor and club have been at loggerheads – with different camps wanting different coaches.

> **"The big-name players receive their salaries from the sponsor, the rest are paid by the club, which is often unable to come up with the money in time"**

Parreira was dumped when the club slid into the relegation zone and back came Renato Gaucho, who took the club to last year's Libertadores Final and was a favourite of Unimed's president. However, results got worse and he was replaced by Cuca – himself sacked by Rio rivals Flamengo – and whose perpetually haunted look was soon etched even deeper on his face.

Difficult environment

By September the club were trying hurriedly to sign players to stop the rot and in came Ecuador midfielder Patricio Urrutia from LDU Quito and attacking midfielder Ezequiel Gonzalez, the one-time big Argentina hope, from Rosario Central.

But this is a very difficult environment to step into. Some of the squad – typically the big names – receive their salaries from the sponsor; the rest are paid by the club, which is going through financial problems and is often unable to come up with the money in time.

To ease cash flow, some of the club's more promising youngsters were sold but Flu's problems continued to mount, with president Roberto Horcades facing the threat of impeachment amid complaints about poor results and an increase in the club's debt.

A run to the quarter-finals of the Sudamericana Cup, where they will now meet Universidad de Chile, has been the only chink of light for Flu fans this year.

Rio may be in celebration mode after winning the right to host the Olympic Games in 2016, but this is a bad time for the city's football with Botafogo also in the relegation zone, lying fourth from bottom and in dreadful form. The only bright spot on the horizon is provided by Vasco da Gama, who are top of Serie B and closing in on promotion.

In Rio's traditional rival city, meanwhile, the picture is much rosier. Sao Paulo's most popular club, Corinthians, have already guaranteed their place in next year's Libertadores by winning the Brazilian Cup and, with 11 games to go in the league, Palmeiras were five points clear at the top, with Sao Paulo second. ●

Paying the price

Schalke's failure to check spiralling expenditure could cost them dearly

> Cash flow has slowed to a trickle at Schalke, so much so that the club are not paying wages on time...which is a capital offence in these parts

GERMANY

NICK BIDWELL in Munich

FIVE MONTHS after Felix Magath quit last season's Bundesliga winners Wolfsburg for Schalke, his decision is still hard to fathom. Trading a Champions League odyssey and a symbiotic relationship with the champions' backers at Volkswagen for a club renowned for chronic instability and underachievement was never an obvious career move – and after recent revelations of Schalke's ever-worsening economic position, Magath may be thinking he has bitten off more than he can chew.

If Schalke were a bank, clients would be queuing down the street to close their accounts with their wheelbarrows out en masse. Over the past year, total debts have increased 30 per cent to £136.5million, annual profits have collapsed (£11.5m to just £0.45m) and cash flow has slowed to a trickle, so much so that, according to former general manager Rudi Assauer – and he should know – the club are not paying wages on time...which is a capital offence in these parts.

The cheque, it seems, is always "in the post". A credit agency, D&B Germany, claims the Gelsenkirchen outfit pays invoices an average of 30 days late – and that the club's stadium subsidiary is even more tardy, only coming up with monies owed some seven weeks after the due date.

No wonder Magath – who is coach, chief executive and board member – declared with typical bluntness: "We have a lot of passion but no money."

Needless to say, the global economic downturn has played its part in Schalke's troubles. But their bean-counters deserve a share of the blame too, particularly for the way they have allowed personnel costs to spiral out of control. The club had hoped to make large-scale reductions in this area, yet contrived to do the exact opposite, with the wage bill increasing by £4.5m last year to £61m. The improved contracts offered to first-teamers such as Jermaine Jones, Heiko Westermann and Benedikt Howedes were simply a step too far and it says everything about the laissez-faire attitude in the corridors of power that former coaches Fred Rutten, Mike Buskens and Youri Mulder, plus ex-general manager Andreas Muller, continue to draw salaries from the club.

Paradise lost

All the indicators point sharply downwards to a paradise lost. Out of European competition for the first time in eight years, *Die Konigsblauen* (the royal blues) have kissed an important source of income goodbye. Meanwhile, interest payments on loans – mainly relating to the financing of their Veltins-Arena home, which was built in 2001 – come to £18m a year and generally they are mortgaged to the teeth.

Back in 2002, UK-based financier Stephen Schechter granted the club a £76m loan securitised against gate receipts until 2025, and in the past 12 months Schalke have been driven to the seemingly extreme measure of selling off portions of their largest sponsorship agreements – with the Russian energy concern Gazprom and kit supplier Adidas – to investors.

Straitjackets have more wiggle-room. With liquidity seemingly in short supply, Schalke apparently have to find £18m before the end of the year and then another £9m before mid-2010. Should new finance chief Peter Peters – who recently replaced the now discredited Josef Schnusenberg – manage to clean up this mess, he will surely be worthy of an economic brief in the cabinet of the freshly re-elected chancellor, Angela Merkel.

Peters must act fast. Next March the

Tough task ahead...Magath must be wondering what he has let himself in for at Schalke

German league will be looking at clubs' books prior to granting a licence to operate in the Bundesliga – and if they do not like the look of the balance sheet and the projected figures, Schalke will be out; a thought to make the massed ranks of their supporters wake up in the wee small hours in a cold sweat.

While Schalke's top brass insist the situation is not as bad as portrayed in the media, they do accept that substantial across-the-board savings are a must and, with new commercial partners hardly likely to step forward in the current climate, their focus is now likely to be on enforced salary cuts and player sales.

Magath claims there will be no fire sale of talent in the January transfer window, commenting: "Whoever thinks we will be selling players below their market worth is making the wrong assumption."

But the matter might be out of his hands. Not only would the sale of Brazil right-back Rafinha and Peru attacker Jefferson Farfan generate some much-needed capital, it would also get two big earners off the books.

One crumb of comfort for Schalke in these troubled times was the warm glow of victory after they beat Ruhr rivals Borussia Dortmund 1-0, thanks to a goal from Farfan.

It was just the tonic the Gelsenkirchener needed. For one weekend at least, they could forget all about deficits and cost-cutting. ●

Best of enemies...World Cup organising committee chiefs Jordaan and Khoza's bitter battle for the South African FA presidency is not over

Power games

A bitter local leadership dispute has threatened to undermine preparations for next summer's World Cup

SOUTH AFRICA

MARK GLEESON in Cape Town

AN ACRIMONIOUS battle for the leadership of South African football – between the two men at the helm of the World Cup local organising committee – has sent shudders of fear into FIFA and cast a pall over the 2010 preparations.

But neither Irvin Khoza or Danny Jordaan, who despite working together for decades have a long-standing personal feud, won the job as the next president of the South African Football Association (SAFA), both surprisingly pulling out of the race, thus allowing an unheralded compromise candidate to take over.

But the spat is far from finished and the animosity is expected to continue to take several twists and turns at a time when there should be full concentration on finishing the 2010 preparations.

Khoza is the chairman of South Africa's 2010 World Cup organising committee and the all-powerful leader of the country's Premier Soccer League. He is also the owner of Orlando Pirates, one of South Africa's oldest and most popular clubs, and despite a cloudy background has evolved into a man of much clout and influence, insisting on using the honorific title of "doctor" and dubbed the "Iron Duke" by the local media.

Jordaan is a savvier politician who has close connections to FIFA. It was his contacts and strategic thinking that almost single-handedly delivered the World Cup to South Africa and he now serves as the chief executive officer of the local organising committee for the 2010 tournament. Jordaan is a former history teacher, anti-apartheid activist and member of parliament. He also likes to be called "doctor" now that he, too, has been awarded an honorary degree. He is responsible for the day-to-day preparations for the World Cup, though he saw fit to take his eye off the ball and run for election instead.

At stake was the presidency of SAFA and, more importantly, control of the massive windfall the country's most popular sport is expected to enjoy after the 2010 tournament once it gets its share of the profits (which is expected to be around £40million).

Both Khoza and Jordaan were desperate to control this pot of largesse and influence, and their inability to sort out a compromise saw them go head-to-head into the race for the post.

"Khoza presumed the election would be held over for legal opinion to solve the impasse, but it went ahead anyway and Nematandani (above) was swept to power unopposed"

FIFA president Sepp Blatter pleaded several times with the South Africans to postpone their election until after the World Cup finals but the association insisted its statutes dictated a poll be completed by September. Outgoing SAFA president Molefi Oliphant was not prepared to stand again.

FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke flew to Johannesburg to threaten both candidates they would lose their positions on the 2010 organising committee if they ascended to the SAFA presidency. But this dire warning, which looked to have little substantive ground, was ignored as the pair headed towards election day.

Dirty tricks

Instead of a democratic contest, dirty tricks dominated the day. Jordaan's candidacy had been disputed early on by Khoza, who claimed that as Jordaan was a full-time employee of the organising committee, which had been set up by SAFA, he was therefore disqualified from running.

Jordaan ignored this, but set up an alternative candidate, Kirsten Nematandani, to carry on his cause just in case.

As it happened, on the day, behind closed doors in Johannesburg, Khoza supporters disputed Jordaan's candidacy. But Khoza's own eligibility also came under question with the assertion he could not be a candidate either because, as chairman of the professional league, he was only an associate member of the association.

In a dramatic twist to the election, both heavyweights then withdrew when two legal experts, invited to find on the eligibility of the candidacies, said they were unable to do so and left the meeting. Khoza presumed the proceedings would be held over while other legal opinion was sought to solve the impasse and left – but the election went ahead anyway and Nematandani was swept to power unopposed.

Khoza is now fuming and considering challenging the outcome in court, though he is trying to persuade the powerful professional clubs to back his attempt before making his next move. Nematandani and Jordaan, meanwhile, are seeking to swiftly weaken the power of the Premier Soccer League to temper Khoza's influence.

This is a soap opera that will continue to run and run at a time when all energies in South Africa should clearly rather be focused on the World Cup preparations. ●

Continental drift

Failure to qualify for the World Cup is the latest setback for the Saudis, once Asia's strongest national side but who have now drifted out of contention

SAUDI ARABIA

MICHAEL CHURCH

FEW PEOPLE can have enjoyed Saudi Arabia's failure to qualify for the 2010 World Cup finals more than Milan Macala, the head coach of Bahrain – who eliminated their more illustrious neighbours in the most dramatic fashion.

Ismaeel Latif's injury-time goal saw the Bahrainis advance to a play-off against New Zealand for a place in next year's finals while also ending the Saudis' record of four consecutive appearances at the World Cup.

Macala, like so many coaches before him, knows only too well the ruthlessness with which the Saudis deal with these kind of defeats. Nine years ago, the Czech was on the receiving end of the executioner's scimitar which has dispatched so many – his end coming after the Saudis succumbed to Japan in the Final of the 2000 Asian Cup.

> **Regarding Jose Peseiro, we will not make a hasty decision. It is not logical to sack the technical staff after each defeat**
>
> *Saudi federation president Prince Sultan bin Fahad keeps the head coach sweating over his fate*

Until now, the revolving-door approach to the coach's position had done little to deny the Saudis what was becoming their regular appearance at the World Cup. When the team would be seen to stutter, a swift change would be enough to raise the performance level and restore the Saudis on the path to the finals.

This time, though, the tactic finally failed and now Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro is feeling the heat.

Peseiro took over from Nasser Al Johar in March after back-to-back defeats at the hands of South and North Korea. His impact was immediate, steering the Saudis to wins over United Arab Emirates and, more impressively, Iran.

Those victories, coupled with a 0-0 draw with North Korea in Riyadh in the final game of the group phase, took the Saudis into the play-off with Bahrain which ultimately ended in their elimination.

Almost immediately, the hand wringing began in Riyadh and beyond.

"The current situation within the national team is not encouraging us to play at the world's top tournament, especially with technical staff who slaughtered us during the qualifiers," wrote Fahad Al Rawqi, somewhat predictably, in *Arriyadiyah* newspaper.

Mohamad Al Shaikh of *Al Riyadh* newspaper was more measured in his assessment of the current situation, writing: "In one season, Saudi football has seen a lot of failures, whether at club or national-team level, in addition to the set backs of previous seasons.

"Can it be said Peseiro is to be blamed or that certain tactics were at fault? A little courage is required from our football officials to admit their responsibility for this situation and not just blast the reasons for this failure into the air."

The failure to qualify prompted an apology from Prince Sultan bin Fahad, president of the Saudi Arabia football federation, and he refused to make a knee-jerk reaction regarding the future of the head coach.

"I apologise to all Saudi football fans after this exit," he said. "We could have avoided this situation and the result but we didn't have our best performances and hopefully we can avoid mistakes in the future. Regarding Jose Peseiro, we will not make a hasty decision. It is certainly not logical to sack the technical staff after each defeat."

Seeds of demise

It could be argued that the seeds of Saudi Arabia's demise were sown as far back as the nation's debut appearance at the World Cup finals. Since impressing in the United States in 1994 – when wins over Morocco and Belgium earned them a place in the second round – football within the country has become stagnant.

A ban on allowing players to move overseas remained in place until the 1998 finals in France, denying those who had impressed four years earlier the opportunity to improve and develop. So abject was the performance in France, the spotlight moved away from the Saudis and has yet to return.

As a result, the Saudis have had a series of diminishing returns at successive World Cups, with first-round eliminations the order of the day as well as several humiliations, including an 8-0 demolition by Germany in Sapporo in 2002.

In addition, Australia's arrival as a member of the Asian Football Confederation has made qualifying for the World Cup more of a challenge and it is the Saudis who – indirectly on this occasion – have become the first victims of what was always going to be a seismic shift within the Asian game.

Their response – on the pitch and within the political halls of power – will determine whether they can regroup in time for the next Asian Cup finals, in Qatar in 2011, or, indeed, to return to the World Cup finals in Brazil in 2014. ●

Let's go...Peseiro gets animated with skipper Hussein Sulimani during the play-off

Open season

The big boys are struggling to dominate the Serie A campaign

ITALY

PADDY AGNEW in Rome

WHERE HAVE ALL the wonder teams gone? There was a time – perhaps there still is that time – when the Serie A championship was totally dominated by the three superpowers: Internazionale, Milan and Juventus. Not only have this trio won 26 of the last 33 league titles, they have also tended (at least one of them) to utterly dominate the season, home and away.

These are, of course, early days, but with seven games played it is hard to resist the impression that Serie A – in this post-Kaka, post-Ibrahimovic, post-Maldini, post-Ancelotti season – is levelling out. Or put another way: the big three are not having things all their own way.

In a sense, there is nothing new about this. Teams involved in Europe like to time their preparations so they hit peak form in March, not October. The distraction and physical demands of Champions League group games can offer "lesser" sides an early season advantage. However, it could well be that this season, as in so many others, one of the big three will emerge strong and unbeatable next spring.

For the time being, though, it is hard to envisage Milan being that side. With just nine points in the bag by mid-October and having already lost to Inter and Udinese in the league, as well as a Champions League home defeat by Zurich, Milan have made a very poor start. You have to go back to the 1981-82 and 1997-98 campaigns to find a season when they had fewer points after seven games. Neither of those seasons finished particularly well, either, with Gigi Radice's 1982 team being relegated and Fabio Capello's 1998 team ending up in an ignominious 10th.

So, has something gone seriously wrong at Milanello or are Milan merely undergoing the sort of "running in" difficulties that are to be expected from a side that has lost coach Carlo Ancelotti (to Chelsea), captain Paolo Maldini (retired) and gifted Brazilian playmaker Kaka (to Real Madrid)?

Furthermore, Milan did not go exactly wild in the transfer market this summer. That was not so much a reflection of the ever-weaker economic situation of Italian clubs in Europe; it was a case of club owner, prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, finding it politically "inopportune" to be seen to be spending millions on his favourite plaything at a time when Italy and Italians are struggling with the negative impact of the global economic recession.

Leonardo "not at risk"

Initial club reaction would seem to be measured. Milanello insiders say that rookie Brazilian coach Leonardo is not at risk, despite the poor start. Furthermore, veteran central defender Alessandro Nesta seemed to indicate a seriousness of dressing-room mood when speaking after Milan had disappointed in a 1-1 away draw with the joint-bottom team, Atalanta.

Pointing out that his side had a numeric advantage for the entire second half, following the sending-off of Atalanta's Serb midfielder Ivan Radovanovic, Nesta complained: "We're still struggling, we need to be humble and admit it. You can't pretend that with this draw we've resolved everything. Milan solves its problems by winning, above all against a 10-man team.

"We've still got a lot of work to do but one thing is for sure: 'Leo' can rest easy. The team and the club are with him, we just need a few good results."

Perhaps Milan should take heart from the form shown so far this season by their youth team. Twenty-four hours before the Atalanta match, the youth side picked up a prized scalp when beating Inter 3-0 to eliminate them from the Coppa Italia Primavera. Perhaps a brighter future awaits Milan, a future that the club can find within its own youth resources.

> **"We're still struggling, we need to be humble and admit it. We've got a lot of work to do"**
>
> *Veteran Milan defender Alessandro Nesta spells it out to his team-mates*

In the meantime, Milan continue to wait on three key Brazilians.

Can Leonardo convince men such as Andrea Pirlo, Gianluca Zambrotta, Gennaro Gattuso, Massimo Ambrosini and Nesta to put their best foot forward?

Will Alexandre Pato regain the sort of brilliant form that marked his first two seasons in Italian football?

And, above all, will Ronaldhino step up to the plate and finally sparkle again as he did in his heyday at Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona?

If the answer to all three questions is yes, then even the immediate future is bright at Milanello. But if the answer is no, then this could be a very long, painful season, both in Serie A and in the Champions League.

As for their city cousins, Inter's pain is something they have endured only in Europe in recent seasons at least. This year, more than ever, one suspects that the Champions League is the overriding objective. In that context, a 1-0 September defeat away to Sampdoria may be of relative importance. One week later, Inter were lucky to beat Udinese 2-1 at home with a winner from Wesley Sneijder three minutes into added time. Team unity, determination and self-belief were there for all to see but hardly attractive football. The same might be said of their 0-0 Champions League home draw with Barcelona.

In his second season in Italian football, coach Jose Mourinho still seems to view his Inter as a "work in progress". The Champions League will tell us whether or not he has realised his *capolavoro* [masterpiece]. In the meantime, that defeat by the Antonio Cassano-inspired Sampdoria was a sharp reminder that the big boys will not have it all their own way.

Palermo's 2-0 home win over

Juventus comes into exactly the same category. After a bright seasonal start which saw "the Old Lady" travel south to Rome in successive weeks, defeating first Roma and then Lazio, Juventus have begun to look less impressive. While an entertaining 2-2 away draw with Genoa and a 0-0 Champions League away draw with Bayern Munich were not bad results, a subsequent 1-1 home draw with Bologna suggested Juve were going off the boil – an impression that was fully confirmed by the Palermo game where, in the words of central defender Giorgio Chiellini, Juventus could have been 4-0 down at halftime.

Zenga reprieve

Ironically, Palermo's talented coach, the former Inter and Italy goalkeeper Walter Zenga, had gone into that game allegedly in need of a good result to save his job. Having won on the opening day of the season, Palermo had gone five games without another victory and approached the match with just six points. In the end, Ciro Ferrara's first defeat as Juventus coach may well have given Zenga a reprieve.

Which is more than can be said for Roberto Donadoni, who led Italy at Euro 2008 but was given his cards by Napoli following a disappointing start to the season, with losses to Palermo, Genoa, Inter and Roma. He was replaced by former Reggina and Sampdoria boss Walter Mazzarri.

With a refound verve, Napoli, along with Palermo, Sampdoria, Udinese and Fiorentina could well become one of those sides guaranteed to make life difficult for the big three. We could be in for some very interesting times in Serie A. ●

All hands to the pump...Pato, pictured in a 1-0 defeat by Udinese, and his Milan team-mates need to lift their game

River run into trouble

Nestor Gorosito pays the price for his team's poor start to the season

Nestor Gorosito resigned as River Plate coach after just seven rounds of the opening championship, complaining that he could not get his game plan across to the players.

His departure left the famous club two points off the bottom of the table, already out of the Sudamericana Cup and looking as though they will miss out on the next Libertadores Cup for the first time in many years.

Curiously, River showed some signs of improvement in Gorosito's last match, leading 1-0 against San Lorenzo until eight minutes from the end, when defender Gustavo Cabral was sent off and they promptly fell to pieces and lost 2-1.

Their supposed reinforcements for this season – the injury-prone veterans Marcelo Gallardo and Ariel Ortega – were both on the treatment table, but the problems go much deeper. River's directors, in league with agents, have continued to sell their best players – and yet the club remain in the red.

The latest sale was that of Radamel Falcao Garcia, who is already top scorer in Portugal with Porto.

Gorosito is not the only coach to have gone: Ricardo Zielinski left promoted Chacarita Juniors after they lost their first five matches and Ricardo Caruso Lombardi quit troubled Racing.

Libertadores holders Estudiantes, who are preparing for December's Club World Cup, are top in spite of an unexpected 1-0 defeat to Argentinos Juniors who, along with San Lorenzo and Banfield, remain unbeaten. Banfield's Santiago Silva is the league's top scorer with six goals.

Boca Juniors, the country's most popular club, are struggling after three successive defeats, but came back to beat Velez Sarsfield 3-2, a result which probably kept coach Alfio Basile in a job. Instrumental in the win was midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme, back from injury, and the headed winner by Martin Palermo – from fully 40 yards.

> "River have continued to sell their best players and yet the club remains in the red"

Exit...Gorosito

Overall the championship has been extremely close so far, but another stupid decision by the Argentinian FA could have a hand in deciding matters as games were scheduled for Wednesday to Friday in the week of the final World Cup qualifiers to catch up for the late start to the season due to the players' strike.

TV squabbles

All is still not well with the government-sponsored television channel which is showing all the league games but which cannot be seen in large parts of the country. The government also paid the first three monthly instalments of their 10-year deal to the Argentinian FA rather than the clubs, who continue to squabble over who should get the biggest share.

The first instalment was used by the FA to pay club debts to players, the players' union and taxes – most of which would otherwise still be owing.

Boca Juniors and River Plate, who used to receive the biggest share of the TV money (12.5 per cent each), have been against the government contract from the start and say they could break it as they have better offers from abroad. There seems to be no law against such a move, though such rumours could just be a bargaining chip, but without the two big Buenos Aires clubs, TV advertising would be much harder to sell.

And there is one final problem: during the hot summer – from November to February – the players' union does not allow matches to start before 5pm, so they can't all be televised live. The plan now is to play matches on Mondays...a move which is bound to lower gates further. ●

Battling to stay up...River's Daniel Villalba goes down under a challenge from San Lorenzo keeper Pablo Migliore

Getting a grip...Martino has turned around a dip in form to ensure Paraguay's qualification for next year's World Cup finals

Martino's methods

Guided by an Argentinian coach, the national side qualified comfortably for next summer's World Cup

PARAGUAY

REX GOWAR in Asuncion

AT A TIME when Argentina are struggling so badly, it is somewhat ironic that former national coach Marcelo Bielsa in Chile and one of his disciples, Gerardo Martino in Paraguay, should be thriving across their borders.

Martino, 46, learnt the coaching trade while a central midfielder in the Newell's Old Boys team that was trained by Bielsa and won the1992 Argentinian league title and reached the Final of the Libertadores Cup that same year.

After winning several Paraguayan championships in charge of Libertad and Cerro Porteno, he was handed the national job in 2007.

Martino's team are built on the traditional strengths – in defence and in the air – of the Paraguayan game, while their midfield is combative. However, they do possess dangerous forwards who have honed their craft in the Mexican league and in Europe.

Beating Argentina

They built a commanding lead in the World Cup qualifiers, ending last year on top of the 10-nation South American group, six points ahead of Brazil. But a poor start to this year saw their advantage quickly eroded by Brazil, and a 2-0 home loss to Bielsa's Chile in June handed Dunga's team, who won 4-0 in Uruguay, the lead.

Come September, Martino was desperate for his team to secure the qualification that had appeared a formality, and an unimpressive 1-0 home win over Bolivia set them up for the deciding clash with Argentina.

> **"It remains to be seen if Paraguay will reach the last eight of a World Cup finals for the first time"**

Martino's side rediscovered their better 2008 form in a good first-half performance against Diego Maradona's Argentina. Paraguay could have scored three times, hitting the woodwork twice, but they sealed qualification with Nelson Haedo Valdez's fine goal at the end of a move with Salvador Cabanas at the heart.

Paraguay sat back on their lead, and it is a sad indictment of Maradona's Argentina that they were unable to at least snatch a point in a lacklustre display.

Martino's selection policy has been conservative in terms of drafting in new names during the World Cup campaign and he waited until qualification was secured to call up central midfielder Nestor Ortigoza, a 26-year-old who was born in Argentina and obtained his father's Paraguayan nationality in April.

A fine ball winner, but also creative in distributing from deep – as he has proved in helping Argentinos Juniors, into second spot in Argentina's Primera Division – Ortigoza is a good addition to Paraguay's squad.

With players of his ilk added to Martino's squad, it now remains to be seen if Paraguay will go that extra mile and reach the last eight of a World Cup finals for the first time. ●

Do or die

In a repeat of their acrimonious 1989 qualifiers, the African champions must beat bitter rivals Algeria to reach the World Cup finals

EGYPT

JAMES MONTAGUE

IT'S NOT OFTEN that you see a grown man cry; rarer still to watch a grown man cry at a press conference in front of a baying phalanx of African football journalists. But for Rabah Saadane the pressure just got too much.

Algeria's national coach, returning to the side he led to the 1986 finals, was talking to the assembled media before June's World Cup qualifier at home to bitter arch-rivals Egypt. After years of dealing with a demanding public, most people expected him to be inoculated from the sharp end of expectation. But no, the 63-year-old instead broke down in tears. What was stranger was the reaction of the press. No one in the room thought it particularly strange. This was Egypt versus Algeria, after all.

If there was one game that could drive an experienced international coach to tears, this was it.

Nearly six months on and Saadane will be packing his tissues again as Algeria take on Egypt in the return fixture, in Cairo, in a match that is the very definition of do or die, rekindling two decades of resentment and evoking memories of one of the most shameful episodes in recent footballing history.

Egypt have to win by three clear goals to book their place in the finals; Algeria need a draw. And when the smoke bombs clear, and the flares and shattered glass are swept from Cairo International Stadium pitch, one of the biggest shocks of World Cup qualification could become clear with Egypt – Africa's best team – missing the plane to the continent's first finals.

The two countries have long fostered an animus that goes beyond football, stretching back to the 1950s when North African countries who were struggling to throw off the yoke of colonial oppression were angered by perceived Egyptian antipathy to their cause. But nothing quite lays bare latent hatreds than the carrot of a World Cup place, as it did in 1989.

Algeria and Egypt were to play two matches to determine who went to Italia 90. The first, in Constantine, ended goalless, meaning that, like today, Egypt had to win in Cairo while Algeria needed just a point. Hossam Hassan's first-half header settled it for Egypt but seldom has international football seen such a vicious match.

Riots have been a common sight in Egyptian football over the years, especially during the Cairo derby between Al Ahly and Zamalek in Africa's biggest domestic game. But the sheer vitriol unleashed outside the stadium, on the terraces, on the pitch and even in the tunnel after the game, shocked those who had become accustomed to the violence that had become part of Egyptian football.

Never forget

One man who will never forget that day is Ayman Younis, the former Zamalek and Egypt midfielder who now commentates for Egyptian state TV. Younis played in the 0-0 stalemate in Algeria, but was injured for the return. Instead he watched the drama unfold from the sidelines.

"It was an incredible atmosphere. The stadium was full five hours before the game," recalls Younis. "The Algeria team was full of stars and on the pitch it was very crazy; 11 fights between every player. Everybody forgot what the coaches had to say and just fought instead. It was a battle, not a football match. It was like our war against Israel in 1973."

The aftermath was even worse. Algeria, incensed by defeat, and a perceived Egypt bias from the Tunisian referee, continued the fighting down the tunnel, while a fracas at the post-match reception culminated in the Egypt team doctor losing an eye.

Algerian legend Lakhdar Belloumi was convicted in his absence for causing the injury and an international warrant was issued for his arrest. He remained a virtual prisoner in his own country while always claiming his innocence. He recently pointed the finger at former national team-mate and goalkeeper Kamel Kadri in an interview with Algerian daily *Echorouck* and the incident was finally resolved in a ceremony before June's encounter between the teams when Algeria's president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, personally intervened.

"Yes, it happened and this reaction happens, especially in African countries, because we have a lot of problems knowing how to accept losing," Younis explains. "Some of the players couldn't even get to their dressing room to change because the Algerians were waiting. They were moved out of the stadium [but] we had to wait until they were gone, until 10pm. The match started at 3pm."

This time the roles have been reversed somewhat. In 1989 Algeria were still the dominant force in African

> **"Everybody forgot what the coaches had to say and just fought. It was a battle, not a football match"**
>
> *Former Egypt midfielder Ayman Younis recalls the bitter encounter of 1989*

Green and white army...Algerian fans cheer their team to a 3-1 victory over Egypt in June

football, aiming for their third consecutive finals. Egypt, who hadn't made an appearance since the 1930s, were very much the outsiders. But Algeria's civil war, which broke out in 1991 following the annulment of elections won by an Islamist party, curtailed its footballing development.

Dominate the continent

In their absence, Egypt evolved and now dominate the continent. The team, under the watchful eye of Hassan Shehata, will be aiming for a hat-trick of consecutive African Nations Cup titles in Angola next January, while Al Ahly have swept all before them in the African Champions League, winning it four times in the past eight years.

"On paper, [Egypt are] as good as an African national team has been for at least a decade," says Ian Hawkey, author of *Feet of the Chameleon*, a history of African football. "Add to that Al Ahly's record in the African Champions League – and they supply a big portion of the national team – then they should be lording it across the continent. Mohamed Aboutraika, on his day, is as good a No10 as any of his contemporaries from Africa."

Yet for all that power, Egypt have traditionally struggled to qualify for the finals – a hangover, Hawkey says, of not quite considering itself African and instead looking towards the Arab Middle East. This qualification was meant to be different, but the 3-1 defeat by Algeria that followed Saadane's breakdown, and unconvincing wins against Zambia and Rwanda, has again raised the spectre of The Pharaohs missing the finals.

"It matters that Egypt go next summer because the first World Cup in Africa would like to see an African team break the continent's World Cup glass ceiling of only reaching the quarter-finals," says Hawkey. "Egypt have a better chance than most of doing that. But you'd have to say Algeria bring as much to the party, in terms of history and prestige in African football as Egypt do – even if, on paper, they are a less star-studded team."

Younis, and the vast majority of the Cairo International Stadium baying for an Egyptian victory on November 14 would, of course, disagree – and with the stakes as big as they can possibly get, both teams will evoke the memory of 1989 to right perceived wrongs.

"They are waiting to get revenge," Younis says of Algeria. "But I think it will be incredible to play for Egypt. The atmosphere in the stadium will shake Algeria to the ground. We will make them lose concentration and lose in a way that, this time, they will have to accept the loss."

Both sides, and Cairo's authorities, will pray that this time, whatever the result, it is only tears that are shed. ●

Been counter

Money might be tight but Feyenoord's new coach is making his presence felt

ACTOR GERARD COX once said: "You aren't a Feyenoord supporter for fun", a recognition that disappointment, not joy, has long been the defining emotion for fans of the Rotterdam club.

The facts prove Cox is right. After all, Feyenoord may still be ranked among Holland's big three but, compared to PSV (17) and Ajax (13), they have only celebrated four league titles in the past 35 years.

Last season the club hit rock bottom, with coach Gertjan Verbeek fired, European football out of reach and the coffers empty.

No wonder the 69-year-old Cox, after visiting Feyenoord's home matches for 60 years, decided to tear up his season ticket. However, most fans – the most loyal in the country – have kept faith. Every year they pin their hopes on the new signings who arrive in a helicopter for the annual squad presentation on the De Kuip pitch. But this summer the most important man stepping out of the chopper was a coach, not a player. Mario Been, who played for Feyenoord between 1982 and 1988, is the great white hope and his image has even been printed on T-shirts in the style of the famous Che Guevara image.

Maybe the former enfant terrible, who wasted much of his talent as a player through rebellious behaviour, is just what Feyenoord need. Indeed, the first few weeks saw major changes on the banks of the river Maas.

Been, a former Excelsior and NEC coach, isn't scared of taking drastic measures. His adage is "no guts, no glory" and his boldest move has been to send Roy Makaay, Tim De Cler and Kevin Hofland to the bench or, in the case of Denny Landzaat, to the stands. Only two years ago these players were heralded as the stars who would bring Feyenoord the title in their centennial year; now their future at the club looks slim. Instead, Been has put his trust in youngsters such as Leroy Fer, Georginio Wijnaldum, Andwele Slory and Jonathan De Guzman.

"I never look at reputations, everybody has to deserve his place," says Been. "If someone doesn't perform well or doesn't listen, he is sitting on the bench – even if he earns a salary of €2million."

So far, so good. But the downside for Feyenoord is that the dropped players, who are all on salaries of between £1.3m and £1.8m, have become a heavy burden on the club's finances and they need to be sold to raise cash for new investments. However, there is no one willing to pay those sort of salaries for thirty-something players, so Feyenoord are trapped in a vicious circle.

The financial constraints present a challenge for Been and technical adviser Leo Beenhakker, who now has more time following his departure as Poland's national coach.

Beenhakker, back in his home town, should open doors to new investors, such as those who helped to pay for the summer signings of Spanish defender Dani Fernandez from Arsenal Kyiv and Ivory Coast striker Sekou Cisse from Roda.

Beenhakker will also play a more creative role in transfers. Serbia midfielder Stefan Babovic had been sidelined by Nantes and his national team coach Raddy Antic, keen to see him playing regularly, contacted his old friend Beenhakker and persuaded him to take the player on a free transfer. Babovic's salary will be paid by the player's father.

Twente continue to progress

Given Feyenoord's ongoing financial problems, it is unlikely the club will challenge for the title this season. Their first big test came when PSV won 3-1 in Rotterdam. New PSV coach Fred Rutten made his mark by dropping skipper Timmy Simons to the bench, and promoting Danny Koevermans and Otman Bakkal. The Eindhoven club are currently second in the league, two points behind Twente, who are continuing their progress under Steve McClaren.

In charge...Been has been handed control at De Kuip

> "Feyenoord may be one of Holland's big three but they have won only four league titles in the past 35 years"

Ajax are still veering between the hopeful and the disappointing, with much depending on Luis Suarez. The Uruguay striker has already hit two hat-tricks, including all four goals in an away win at VVV Venlo, but Ajax are worried that he may leave during the winter break, as Klaas-Jan Huntelaar did last season.

However, coach Martin Jol is putting his faith in defenders from the club's youth ranks. Between them, Maarten Stekelenburg, Gregory Van der Wiel, Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Urby Emanuelson have kept six clean sheets in the league already. ●

Braga's big adventure

The big three of Benfica, Porto and Sporting Lisbon are facing an unlikely challenger

PORTUGAL

PEDRO PINTO in Lisbon

IF YOU MADE a list of the teams you would have expected to be top of the Portuguese Liga by October, Sporting Braga would not have been one of them.

After the departure of coach Jorge Jesus to Benfica and early elimination from the Europa League, "the Arsenal" just wanted to find their feet at the start of this campaign.

But they have done so much more than that, setting a club record with seven consecutive victories to give new boss Domingos Paciencia hope that Braga could become only the second club in half a century outside the traditional big three of Benfica, Porto and Sporting Lisbon to win the title.

Domingos, who was a seven-times champion as a player with Porto, has tried to avoid talking about his side's title aspirations but even he now admits: "I have a quality team and we can go toe to toe with the big three."

So, how have Braga done it? Their defensive solidity has had a lot to do with their success. Current national goalkeeper Eduardo is the best in the land and, aided by a solid back line, he conceded just three goals in the opening seven games.

> **"I have a quality team and we can go toe to toe with the big three"**
>
> *Braga boss Domingos Paciencia*

And the influence of Hugo Viana in midfield cannot be overlooked. The left-footed maestro, who struggled abroad at Newcastle United and Valencia, has enjoyed a magical revival since returning home on loan from the Spanish side.

Last but not least, the versatility and mobility of the front trio has contributed massively. Cameroon international Albert Meyong and Brazilians Paulo Cesar and Alan have created havoc in opposition defences, with all three of them having scored important goals in a run which has seen Braga beat both Sporting and Porto.

Most fans in Portugal are asking themselves whether Braga can keep their unexpected run going. However, history is not on their side, and both Benfica and Porto have looked strong in the early stages of the season and they are lurking and waiting for Braga to make a mistake.

Until then, the unfashionable club from the north-east of Portugal are just enjoying the moment and dreaming of a first-ever title. ●

More than a match...Braga's Alan (left) beats Silvestre Varela of Porto

Your chance to vote in our 28th annual awards

2009 WORLD

IT'S THAT TIME of the year when we ask *World Soccer* readers to put their expertise to good use and select their player, manager and team of the year in our annual awards.

In a non-tournament year, the spotlight is likely to fall heaviest on the Champions League and last season's winners, Barcelona, will inevitably provide strong contenders in a number of categories.

Lionel Messi, Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta will all attract votes, as will last year's winner, Cristiano Ronaldo, who is now with Real Madrid. England's Wayne Rooney and Ivory Coast's Didier Drogba can expect votes for their performances in the World Cup qualifiers.

In the manager category, Pep Guardiola of Barcelona and Alex Ferguson of Manchester United will be leading contenders, as will those who won domestic silverware with their respective clubs – such as Internazionale's Jose Mourinho, ex-Wolfsburg coach Felix Magath and Louis Van Gaal, who won the Dutch title with AZ before joining Bayern Munich. Other names in the frame include England's Fabio Capello, Marcelo Bielsa of Chile and Bordeaux's Laurent Blanc.

As for teams, Barcelona are obvious contenders, along with Spain and Libertadores Cup winners Estudiantes, while Slovakia, Bosnia and North Korea provided some of 2009's more surprise headlines.

In the Young Player category, where the winner must be under the age of 22 on December 1, 2009, there are plenty of contenders, such as Sergio Aguero of Atletico Madrid and Stevan Jovetic of Fiorentina.

The decision, as ever, is yours. Whoever you think deserves to win, please make sure you register your vote. You can do so by filling in the coupon below (or a photocopy) and posting it to:

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And the world's greatest striker is...

HOW DO you decide, once and for all, who is the world's best striker? Rather than consider opinion and subjective judgement, however expert, we opted to analyse the facts...and let the goals do the talking.

We looked at all goals scored over the past four seasons, as well as this year's campaign up to October 4. That's a four-year international cycle that takes in a World Cup, European Championship, Copa America and two African Nations Cups.

Goals have been weighted to take into account greater importance for those scored in European and international competition, and the lesser importance attached to goals in domestic cup competitions. As with the ESM Golden Shoe, league goals have also been given a weighting, with goals scored in Europe's leading five leagues – England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain – receiving two points each.

Here are our top 20...

Statistics show that Valencia's David Villa is the most prolific forward on the planet

1 David Villa
Valencia and Spain

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Valencia	25	2	0	5
06-07/Valencia	15	0	5	7
07-08/Valencia	18	1	3	6
08-09/Valencia	28	1	1	13
09-10/Valencia	6	0	2	2
Goals	92	4	11	33
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	184	4	33	99
TOTAL	**320**			

2 Samuel Eto'o

Internazionale and Cameroon

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Barcelona	26	2	6	5
06-07/Barcelona	11	1	1	1
07-08/Barcelona	16	1	1	9
08-09/Barcelona	30	0	6	5
09-10/Inter	3	1	0	2
Goals	86	5	14	22
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	172	5	42	66
TOTAL	**285**			

3 Cristiano Ronaldo

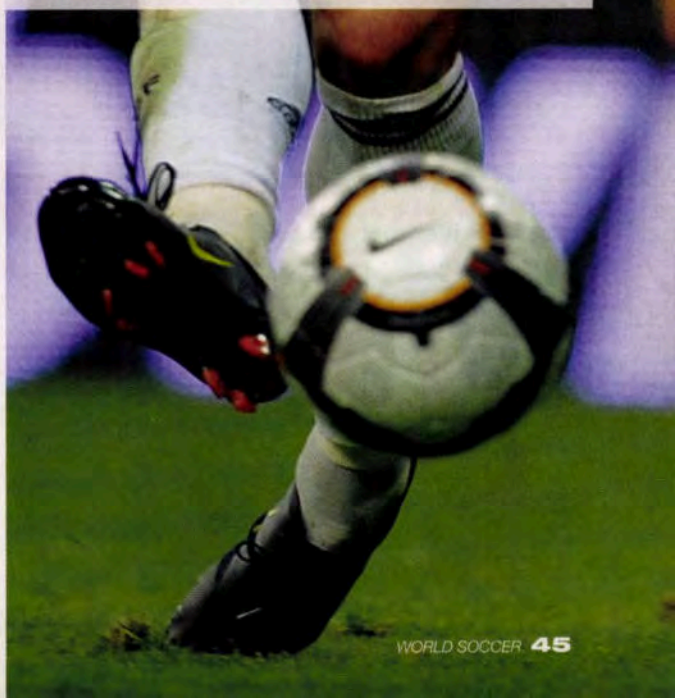
Real Madrid & Portugal

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Man Utd	9	2	1	3
06-07/Man Utd	17	3	3	5
07-08/Man Utd	31	3	8	4
08-09/Man Utd	18	3	4	1
09-10/Real Madrid	5	0	4	0
Goals	80	11	20	13
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	160	11	60	39
TOTAL	**270**			

4 Miroslav Klose

Bayern Munich and Germany

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Bremen	25	2	4	9
06-07/Bremen	13	0	2	4
07-08/Bayern	10	6	5	8
08-09/Bayern	10	3	7	3
09-10/Bayern	0	0	0	3
Goals	58	11	18	27
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	116	11	54	81
TOTAL	**262**			



5 Luca Toni
Bayern Munich and Italy

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Fiorentina	31	1	0	7
06-07/Fiorentina	16	0	0	3
07-08/Bayern	24	5	10	3
08-09/Bayern	14	1	3	1
09-10/Bayern	0	0	0	0
Goals	85	7	13	14
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	170	7	39	42
TOTAL	**258**			

6 Klaas-Jan Huntelaar
Milan and Holland

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Ajax	33	6	3	0
06-07/Ajax	21	4	9	2
07-08/Ajax	33	1	2	5
08-09/Ajax/Real	6/8	1	2	5
09-10/Milan	0	0	0	1
Goals	101	12	16	13
Factor	1.5/2	1	3	3
Points	155.5	12	48	39
TOTAL	**254.5**			

9 Fernando Torres
Liverpool and Spain

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/At. Madrid	13	0	0	10
06-07/Liverpool	14	1	0	1
07-08/Liverpool	24	3	6	3
08-09/Liverpool	14	1	2	5
09-10/Liverpool	8	0	0	1
Goals	73	5	8	20
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	146	5	24	60
TOTAL		**235**		

10 Freddie Kanoute
Sevilla and Mali

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Sevilla	6	2	6	0
06-07/Sevilla	21	4	5	2
07-08/Sevilla	16	4	6	7
08-09/Sevilla	18	2	2	3
09-10/Sevilla	2	0	1	0
Goals	63	12	20	12
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	126	12	60	36
TOTAL	**234**			

7 Didier Drogba
Chelsea and Ivory Coast

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Chelsea	12	1	1	10
06-07/Chelsea	20	7	6	3
07-08/Chelsea	8	1	6	6
08-09/Chelsea	5	4	5	5
09-10/Chelsea	6	0	0	2
Goals	51	13	18	26
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	102	13	54	78
TOTAL	**247**			

8 Thierry Henry
Barcelona and France

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Arsenal	27	1	5	8
06-07/Arsenal	10	1	1	3
07-08/Barcelona	12	4	3	6
08-09/Barcelona	19	1	6	1
09-10/Barcelona	0	0	0	2
Goals	68	7	14	20
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	136	7	42	60
TOTAL	**245**			

11 Dimitar Berbatov
Manchester United and Bulgaria

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Leverkusen	21	3	0	7
06-07/Tottenham	12	4	7	4
07-08/Tottenham	15	3	5	3
08-09/Man Utd	9	1	4	2
09-10/Man Utd	3	0	0	2
Goals	60	11	16	18
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	120	11	48	54
TOTAL	**233**			

12 Diego Forlan
Atletico Madrid and Uruguay

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Villarreal	10	0	3	0
06-07/Villarreal	19	1	1	1
07-08/At. Madrid	16	1	6	7
08-09/At. Madrid	32	1	2	2
09-10/At. Madrid	2	0	0	0
Goals	79	3	12	10
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	158	3	36	30
TOTAL		**227**		

13 Luis Fabiano
Sevilla and Brazil

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Sevilla	5	2	2	0
06-07/Sevilla	10	3	4	0
07-08/Sevilla	24	4	8	3
08-09/Sevilla	8	7	2	13
09-10/Sevilla	2	0	2	3
Goals	49	16	14	19
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	94	16	42	57
TOTAL	**225**			

14 Mario Gomez
Bayern Munich and Germany

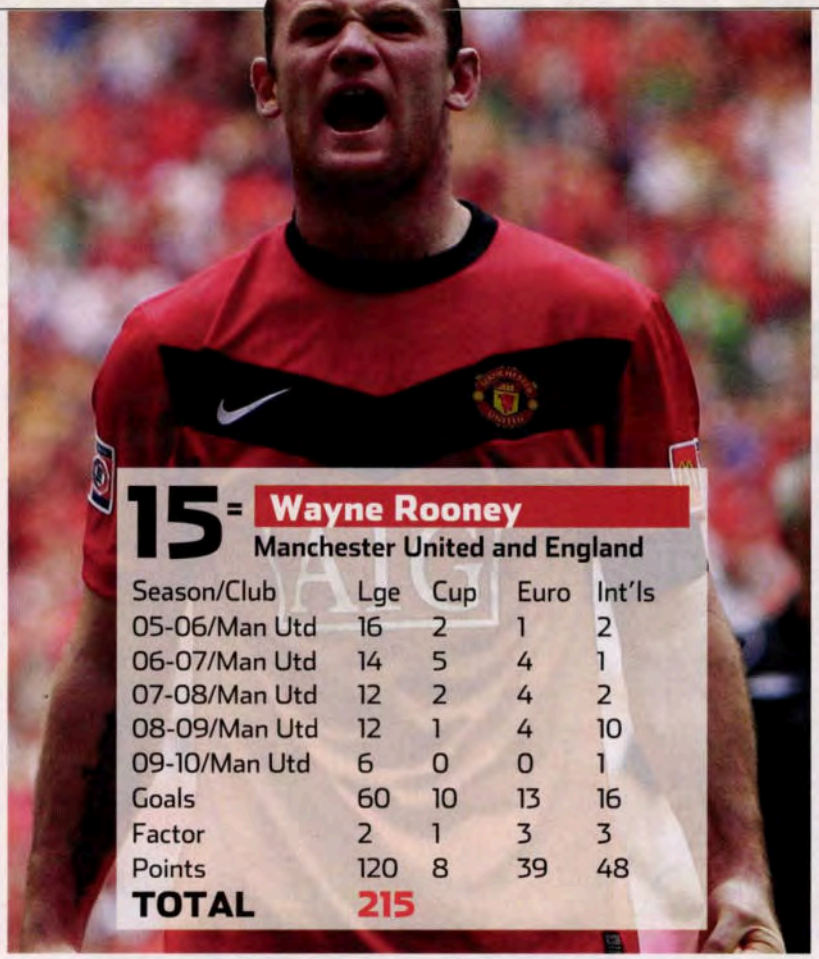
Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Stuttgart	6	0	0	2
06-07/Stuttgart	14	2	0	3
07-08/Stuttgart	19	6	3	3
08-09/Stuttgart	24	3	8	4
09-10/Bayern	3	2	0	1
Goals	66	13	11	13
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	132	13	33	39
TOTAL	**217**			

17 Kaka
Real Madrid and Brazil

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Milan	14	0	5	3
06-07/Milan	8	0	10	4
07-08/Milan	15	0	3	4
08-09/Milan	16	0	0	4
09-10/Madrid	2	0	1	0
Goals	55	0	19	15
Factor	3	1	3	3
Points	110	0	57	45
TOTAL	**212**			

18 Ruud Van Nistelrooy
Real Madrid and Holland

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Man Utd	21	1	2	6
06-07/Madrid	25	2	0	0
07-08/Madrid	16	0	4	5
08-09/Madrid	4	3	3	0
09-10/Madrid	1	0	0	0
Goals	67	6	9	11
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	134	6	27	33
TOTAL	**200**			



15= Wayne Rooney
Manchester United and England

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Man Utd	16	2	1	2
06-07/Man Utd	14	5	4	1
07-08/Man Utd	12	2	4	2
08-09/Man Utd	12	1	4	10
09-10/Man Utd	6	0	0	1
Goals	60	10	13	16
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	120	8	39	48
TOTAL	**215**			

15= Lionel Messi
Barcelona and Argentina

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Barcelona	6	1	1	2
06-07/Barcelona	14	2	1	4
07-08/Barcelona	10	0	6	3
08-09/Barcelona	23	6	9	3
09-10/Barcelona	5	0	1	0
Goals	58	9	18	12
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	116	9	54	36
TOTAL	**215**			

19 Robbie Keane
Tottenham and Rep Ireland

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Tottenham	16	0	0	1
06-07/Tottenham	11	6	5	1
07-08/Tottenham	15	4	4	3
08-09 L'pool/Spurs	10	0	2	5
09-10/Tottenham	4	1	0	1
Goals	56	11	11	11
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	112	11	33	33
TOTAL	**189**			

20 Zlatan Ibrahimovic
Barcelona and Sweden

Season/Club	Lge	Cup	Euro	Int'ls
05-06/Juve	7	0	0	3
06-07/Inte	15	0	0	0
07-08/Inter	17	5	0	2
08-09/Inter	25	1	3	1
09-10/Barcelona	5	0	0	1
Goals	69	6	3	7
Factor	2	1	3	3
Points	138	6	9	21
TOTAL	**174**			

And some of the players who didn't make it: **Adrian Mutu** (166 pts), **Sergio Aguero** (162 pts), **Diego Milito** (156 pts), **Raul** (155 pts), **Nicolas Anelka** (145 pts)

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina squeeze through

Flying high...Argentina's Gonzalo Higuain (left) overcomes the obstacle of Diego Lugano and Uruguay on the way to South Africa

DIEGO MARADONA'S Argentina survived a turbulent qualifying campaign to finally clinch their place in South Africa with a 1-0 victory over neighbours Uruguay in Montevideo.

Mario Bolatti stabbed home the winner in the 85th minute to seal the fourth automatic spot for a team who had been in danger of missing out on the finals after a roller-coaster year under Maradona's leadership.

Nearly all the action happened in the last 10 minutes, starting with a red card for Uruguay's Martin Caceres for a second bookable offence. Juan Veron then lobbed the ball into the area where it fell for substitute Bolatti to score. The hosts also had Cristian Rodriguez dismissed in injury time for fighting.

Maradona wept and hugged his coaching staff after the game – and then insulted the media as Argentina joined Brazil, Paraguay and Chile as automatic qualifiers.

"I have a memory, for those who didn't believe in this team and those who treated me like dirt," said Maradona in a post-match news conference peppered with insults.

Midfielder Veron was at least more measured when he said: "This isn't a celebration, it's a case of getting things off our chest. We have to think about improving."

Four days earlier, in teeming rain, Martin Palermo had saved the day against bottom-of-the-table Peru at the Monumental in Buenos Aires with a stoppage-time winner that elevated him to the status of a saint.

Argentina triumphed 2-1, but still had the woodwork to thank as the visitors hit the bar after the restart.

Defeat for Argentina against Uruguay, coupled with an Ecuador win over Chile, would have seen them miss out on their first finals since 1970. However, Humberto Suazo – the continent's top scorer in the competition with 10 – scored the only goal of the game for Chile to leave Ecuador in sixth

"Maradona insulted the media as Argentina joined the automatic qualifiers for the finals"

Read more at worldsoccer.com/competitions/worldcup

Celebration...Chile qualify for the first time in 12 years

place with 23 points, one behind Uruguay.

Uruguay now have another bite at the cherry via a decider with Costa Rica over two legs in what will be their third consecutive World Cup qualifying play-off. The twice world champions beat Australia to qualify for the 2002 tournament and then lost to the same opponents four years later.

In the far historic past Uruguay were the equals of the big two, Brazil and Argentina, and they had put in two good performances, based on their indomitable spirit – at home to Colombia and away to Ecuador – to climb back into contention after appearing to throw away their chance with a 1-0 defeat by Peru in Lima in September.

Brazil top

Brazil finished top of the group with 34 points but completed their campaign with a lacklustre goalless draw at home to Venezuela in Campo Grande – the first time they have failed to beat their northern neighbours in 19 competitive internationals.

Dunga's team had already lost their 11-match winning streak – in a19-match unbeaten run – in their previous outing, going down 2-1 to Bolivia in La Paz, where several players, including Kaka and top scorer Luis Fabiano, were spared the thin air 3,600 metres above sea level.

Paraguay, who had earlier ended Venezuela's outside hopes of qualifying for South Africa prior to their historic result in Brazil with a 2-1 win in Puerto Ordaz, missed their chance to overtake Brazil at the top of the table when they lost 2-0 at home to Colombia, with Adrian Ramos and Hugo Rodallega scoring in the last half hour.

Colombia's own qualification hopes had already been ended by Chile, who secured South America's third berth in South Africa with that 4-2 victory in Medellin.

President Michelle Bachelet joined the rest of the country in praising the players and their Argentinian coach Marcelo Bielsa after Chile reached the World Cup finals for the first time since 1998, thanks to goals from Waldo Ponce, Suazo, Jorge Valdiva and Fabian Orellana.

Rex Gowar

DIEGO'S DILEMMA

Maradona still has plenty of issues to deal with

WHEN DIEGO MARADONA was appointed national coach, many in Argentina felt his mere presence on the bench would be enough to drive the players to new heights.

All went well until his fourth match in charge, when a 6-1 defeat in Bolivia proved that motivational slogans were no substitute for effective planning for playing at altitude.

From that moment on, the ride became very bumpy indeed. It never looked likely to be easy. Maradona inherited a side which had won one of its previous seven World Cup qualifiers, with fixtures easier than those to come. A place in South Africa was by no means guaranteed, so the pressure was quickly on after that calamitous loss in La Paz.

Suddenly all that emotion from the little figure on the touchline was not looking such a good thing. Prominent players who become coaches often complain about the difficulty of acquiring the patience necessary to carry out their new function. This has seemed especially pertinent in the case of Argentina's coach.

Maradona has always been fuelled by emotion. As a player he could transform it into physical energy. As a fan he could take off his shirt, swirl it round his head and lead the chanting. As a coach there is nowhere for that emotion to go – so it comes out in restless and occasionally destructive changes to his side.

In his eight World Cup qualifiers, Maradona used 38 players – far too many for his team to develop a coherent identity. And there have been some panicky half-time substitutions where he ripped apart the structure of his starting line-up.

Not that his reign has been entirely a case of King Midas in reverse. His championing of Juan Sebastian Veron paid off with a good, gutsy display from the midfielder in Montevideo.

Mind you, more experienced coaches than Maradona have found themselves in similar problems in South America's highly competitive qualifiers. Eight years ago Luiz Felipe Scolari struggled to get Brazil over the line. After winning the World Cup the following year his conclusion, shared by 1994 winner Carlos Alberto Parreira, was that the hard part was qualifying.

On that basis things should now get easier for Maradona.

The nagging, insistent pressure to qualify has gone. So too must go the temptation to keep changing the side. Just like Brazil eight years ago, Argentina discovered in this campaign that having so many players to choose from can be a curse.

Now, though, Maradona has to focus on his squad of 23, and his favoured first XI.

He must also find a collective structure in which Lionel Messi can shine and work out a solid defensive system. These are challenges that require calm and rational thought – the emotion can be thrown in later, when his team line up for the national anthem in South Africa.

Tim Vickery

Passion...Maradona will need more than just his motivational presence in South Africa

AFRICA

Drogba's Elephants march on

Job done...Drogba leaves the field in Blantyre after engineering the 1-1 draw against Malawi that took Ivory Coast back to the World Cup finals

IT WAS ALMOST preordained that Didier Drogba would once again be the talisman for Ivory Coast's World Cup qualification and score the goal that ensured a second successive finals appearance.

His strike also highlighted the enormous role he has played in his country's recent upswing in fortunes as the Ivorians made heavy weather of a relatively easy assignment before he came on to sort out the situation.

The Elephants only needed to draw in Malawi in their penultimate Group E qualifier, a task viewed as routine and which tempted coach Vahid Halilhodzic into giving some of his fringe players a rare opportunity to feature in the starting line-up.

Heads up...Tunisia's Ammar Jemal takes on Kenya's defence

Drogba was among those who sat out, but when Malawi took the lead through Jacob Ngwira it forced a review of the circumstances and the inevitable appearance of the Chelsea striker on the field. It took just two minutes after his entrance for Drogba to score and make sure of the point.

The 1-1 draw means the Ivorians are the second country, behind Ghana, to go through from the African preliminaries, with the three other places to be decided on November 14-15, the final weekend of the qualifiers.

Most keenly contested will be the battle to win Group C between arch-rivals Algeria and Egypt, reviving memories of their bitter contest 20 years ago (see Dispatches, page 36).

Algeria have a three-point advantage, but Egypt will go through if they win by three goals in Cairo, thus having engineered a remarkable comeback after a stuttering start to their campaign.

Both countries won their penultimate games. Egypt scored with their only shot at goal in Zambia, but Hosny Abd Rabo's 68th-minute winner proved crucial as it kept his country's hopes alive.

Algeria had hoped for more goals against Rwanda but had to come from 1-0 down to win 3-1, the last goal a stoppage-time penalty from Karim Ziani that might prove decisive in the ultimate outcome.

In Group B, Tunisia have a two-point lead over Nigeria with both sides playing away in their final games: Tunisia in Mozambique and Nigeria in Kenya.

Issam Jomaa's first-minute goal gave Tunisia victory over Kenya in Rades and they appeared set to qualify when Nigeria looked unable to score at home to Mozambique in Abuja – until Victor Obinna scrambled the winner three minutes into stoppage time to keep alive the Super Eagles' flimsy hopes.

Group A sees neighbours Cameroon and Gabon separated by a single point and they too must play their last matches away. Gabon will play in Togo while Cameroon are in Morocco on what could prove a day of drama.

Mark Gleeson

"It took just two minutes after his entrance for Drogba to score and make sure of the point"

CONCACAF

Honduras crash the party

HONDURAS joined USA and Mexico in the World Cup finals after a dramatic final round of qualifying matches.

Honduras won 1-0 in El Salvador – in a repeat of the 1969 World Cup qualifiers that triggered the "Soccer War" – to reach the finals for only the second time at the expense of Costa Rica, who saw their hopes of automatic qualification wiped out when they conceded a last-gasp equaliser to 10-man USA in Washington and now face a play-off with Uruguay for a place in South Africa.

Four days earlier, the US and Mexico had clinched their qualifying spots with wins over Honduras and El Salvador respectively.

The Americans assured themselves of a sixth successive finals place by winning 3-2 in San Pedro Sula, with Colorado Rapids striker Conor Casey scoring twice.

The first half was goalless but the Hondurans broke the deadlock soon after the re-start through Julio De Leon. Casey headed the United States level minutes later and scored again from Landon Donovan's pass in the 65th minute. Donovan's free-kick stretched the lead to 3-1 and though De Leon gave Honduras hope by scoring his second, veteran striker Carlos Pavon sent a glorious chance to equalise from the penalty spot over the bar after Stuart Holden had handled.

"This was the most important game in qualifying because it was the one that has taken us to South Africa 2010," said USA coach Bob Bradley. "When you have a group that has come together, that has worked hard, that has grown, when they've accomplished something it's a special feeling. Tonight we can all share that feeling."

Javier Aguirre's Mexico claimed a convincing 4-1 home win to end El Salvador's hopes of making it to South Africa. Mexico took the lead after 25 minutes through an own goal by Marvin Gonzalez but had to wait until the 71st minute to extend it when Cuauhtemoc Blanco converted Guillermo Franco's pass. Veteran Juan Francisco Palencia made it 3-0 and though Julio Martinez scored a consolation for El Salvador, Carlos Vela grabbed Mexico's fourth in injury time.

Aguirre, who succeeded Sven Goran Eriksson in April, said: "I feel calm. When you achieve the goals you were hired to do you feel satisfied."

Defeat by USA left Honduras needing to win in El Salvador and hope that Costa Rica slipped up against the Americans.

In 1969 Honduras and El Salvador met in a two-legged World Cup qualifier against the backdrop of rising tensions between the two countries. Honduras won the first leg but El Salvador took the second in San Salvador, where Honduran fans were attacked, prompting their country to break diplomatic relations with El Salvador. A 100-day war followed.

On guard...police shield Honduras as they celebrate in El Salvador

Relations have improved markedly since then but the latest match, back in San Salvador, was still a tense affair and was settled by Pavon, who headed in David Suazo's cross in the 64th minute.

Honduran cheers at Pavon's strike were tempered by the news filtering through from Washington that Costa Rica were 2-0 up against USA thanks to two first-half goals from Bryan Ruiz.

Michael Bradley, son of the US coach, pulled a goal back midway through the second half for the Americans, playing without Sochaux striker Charlie Davies, who had been critically injured in a car crash the previous day.

The US, having used up all their substitutes, went down to 10 men after defender Oguchi Onyewu was carried off with torn cruciate knee ligaments, but there was to be a final dramatic twist.

Bradley's men mounted a last desperate attack in the fifth minute of added time and defender Jonathan Bornstein headed home to condemn the Ticos to the play-offs.

John Holmesdale

Oh no...Costa Rica are powerless to prevent Bornstein (out of picture) grabbing a last-gasp equaliser for the United States

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Going down a storm...Slovakia won in Poland to reach the World Cup finals for the first time

EUROPE

Big guns go through

DENMARK, Switzerland, Slovakia, Germany, Serbia and Italy all secured automatic qualification, leaving play-off spots for Portugal, Greece, Slovenia, Russia, France, Republic of Ireland, Ukraine and Bosnia.

Group 1 was won by Denmark, who beat Sweden 1-0 in the key game in Copenhagen thanks to Jakob Poulsen's first international goal, a long-range shot which bounced over Swedish goalkeeper Andreas Isaksson.

Portugal, who had been in danger of missing out on a play-off place, put themselves back in contention with a 3-0 victory over Hungary in Lisbon. Cristiano Ronaldo, who set up Simao for the first of his two goals, was withdrawn after 23 minutes with a sprained ankle. Liedson, the Brazil-born striker who became a naturalised Portuguese in the summer, also scored. The result left Carlos Queiroz's side needing a point from their final game against Malta, who were duly beaten 4-0 in Guimaraes.

Switzerland won Group 2 after winning 3-0 in Luxembourg – whose 2-1 victory in Zurich at the start of the campaign had got Ottmar Hitzfeld's reign as national coach off to a disastrous start – and a 0-0 draw at home to Israel. Theofanis Gekas scored four of Greece's goals in a 5-2 defeat of Latvia in Athens as they took the play-off place.

Slovenia's 2-0 defeat of Slovakia in Bratislava set up a dramatic finale in Group 3. The Slovaks had needed only a draw from their penultimate game to seal their first World Cup qualification. However, second-half goals from Slovenia's Valter Birsa and Nejc Pecnik spoilt the party and left Slovakia needing to beat Poland in their final game to take stop spot.

Slovenia won 3-0 in San Marino in their final game but Slovakia triumphed in arctic conditions in Chorzow to win 1-0. Poland defender Seweryn Gancarczyk sliced the ball into his own net after three minutes and Slovakia held out for a historic victory.

Group 4 was always going to come down to the encounter in Moscow between Russia and Germany. The Germans needed only a point but came away with all three after Miroslav Klose's goal secured a narrow 1-0 win, with the Russians angry that two strong penalty claims were turned down.

Bosnia-Herzegovina confirmed their play-off place in Group 5 with a 2-0 win in Estonia, with goals from leading strikers Edin Dzeko and Vedad Ibisevic.

In Group 6, Ukraine ended the 100 per cent record of group winners England with a 1-0 win in Dnepropetrovsk and – by following that up with a 6-0 win away to Andorra – clinched their play-off spot.

Serbia maintained their impressive form in Group 7 with a 5-0 thrashing of Romania. France beat Faroe Islands by the same score but it had to settle for a play-off place.

Italy shattered Irish hopes in Dublin when Alberto Gilardino scored a last-minute equaliser to clinch a 2-2 draw and secure top place in Group 8 and leave Republic of Ireland in the play-off place.

"Ukraine ended England's 100 per cent record and went on to clinch a play-off spot"

A number of teams took their foot off the gas in the final round of matches. Denmark lost 1-0 to Hungary, Germany needed a late goal from Lukas Podolski to draw 1-1 with Finland, Italy required a late hat-trick from Gilardino to come from two goals down to beat Cyprus 3-2, while Serbia were beaten 2-1 in Lithuania and Russia were held 1-1 in Azerbaijan.

The exceptions were England, who beat Belarus 3-0 at Wembley, and Spain, who thrashed Bosnia 5-2 to – along with Holland – qualify with a 100 per cent record.

John Holmesdale

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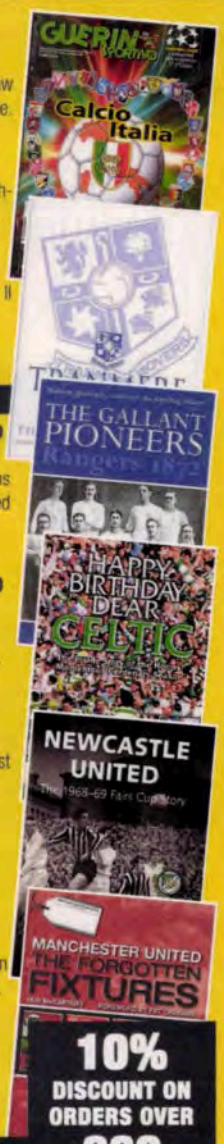

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QUALIFIER NO 11

IVORY COAST

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
Top of African qualifying group E, easing through ahead of Burkina Faso, Guinea and Malawi.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
2006: group stage, suffered 2-1 defeats against both Argentina and Holland, but won 3-2 against Serbia & Montenegro.

NICKNAME
The Elephants.

THE COACH
Vahid Halilhodzic, a Bosnian who made his name as a club coach in France. Succeeded Uli Stielike in June 2008.

KEY PLAYERS
Striker and captain Didier Drogba, brothers Kolo and Yaya Toure, midfielder Didier Zokora.

FIFA WORLD RANKING 20

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P11 W7 D4 L0 F26 A6

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
27

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Didier Drogba (6), Sekou Cisse (3), Bakary Kone (3), Boubacar Sanogo (3).

DISCIPLINE
15 yellows, 0 reds.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-4-2)
Barry - Eboue, K Toure, Meite, Boka - Tiene, Zokora, Y Toure, Kalou - Sanogo, Drogba.

Leading light...Drogba

QUALIFIER NO 12

GERMANY

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
Vied with Russia for automatic qualification from Group 4 and a 1-0 win in Moscow secured their spot in the finals. Strolled through matches against lesser opposition, winning all their matches bar two draws with Finland.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
1934: third place. 1938: first round. 1954: winners. 1958: fourth place. 1962: quarter-finals. 1966: runners-up. 1970: third place. 1974: winners. 1978: second round. 1982: runners-up. 1986: runners-up. 1990: winners. 1994: quarter-finals. 1998: quarter-finals. 2002: runners-up. 2006: third place.

NICKNAME
Nationalmannschaft.

THE COACH
Joachim Low, national team assistant to Jurgen Klinsmann in 2006, he took the team to the Euro 2008 Final.

KEY PLAYERS
Full-back Philipp Lahm, midfielder and captain Michael Ballack, forward Miroslav Klose.

FIFA WORLD RANKING 4

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P10 W8 D2 L0 F26 A5

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
27

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Miroslav Klose (7), Lukas Podolski (6), Michael Ballack (4).

DISCIPLINE
2 yellows, 1 red.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-2-3-1)
Adler - A Freidrich, Mertesacker, Westermann, Lahm - Rolfes, Ballack - Schweinsteiger, Ozil, Podolski - Klose.

On top...Ballack

QUALIFIER NO 13

DENMARK

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
Topped a difficult Group 1 that contained Portugal, local rivals Sweden and dark horses Hungary, along with Albania and Malta. Led the group from early on after a dramatic two-goal turnaround in Lisbon to beat Portugal 3-2. A 1-0 win over Sweden sealed their place in South Africa.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
1986: second round. 1998: quarter-finals. 2002: second round.

NICKNAME
Olsen's Eleven

THE COACH
Morten Olsen, long-serving manager who has been in charge of his country since 2000. Has had a bittersweet club management career where he has brought success to clubs before being dismissed by each one. Took Brondby to the 1991 UEFA Cup semi-final, saved Koln from relegation in 1993 and won the Dutch league-and-cup double with Ajax in 1998. Plans to step down after World Cup.

KEY PLAYERS
Defenders Simon Kjaer and Daniel Agger, midfielder Christian Poulsen, forward Nicklas Bendtner.

FIFA WORLD RANKING
16

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P10 W6 D3 L1 F16 A5

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
38

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Soren Larsen (5), Nicklas Bendtner (3), Christian Poulsen (2).

DISCIPLINE
14 yellows, 0 reds.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-2-3-1)
Sorensen - Kvist, Kjaer, Agger, Jacobsen - Jorgensen, Christian Poulsen - Rommedahl, Tomasson, J Poulsen - Bendtner.

Looking ahead...Bendtner

QUALIFIER NO 14

SERBIA

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
Topped Group 7 after being chased down by favourites France. Despite losing in the Stade de France, victories in all their other games meant a 5-0 thrashing of Romania in their penultimate match sealed qualification before a surprise loss in Lithuania.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
None (as Serbia).

NICKNAME
White Eagles.

THE COACH
Radomir Antic, the only man ever to have managed the Spanish big three of Atletico Madrid, Real Madrid and Barcelona. Returned home after 20 years in Spain.

KEY PLAYERS
Defender Nemanja Vidic, midfielder Dejan Stankovic, forward Nikola Zigic.

FIFA WORLD RANKING
13

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P10 W7 D1 L2 F22 A8

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
28

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Milan Jovanovic (5), Branislav Ivanovic (3), Nikola Zigic (3).

DISCIPLINE
22 yellows, 1 red.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-2-3-1)
Stojkovic - Ivanovic, Vidic, Subotic, Obradovic - Stankovic, Kuzmanovic - Krasic, Kacar, Jovanovic - Zigic.

In control...Stankovic

QUALIFIER NO 15

ITALY

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
The reigning world champions went unbeaten in Group 8, although they perhaps scored fewer goals than expected. Wins in Montenegro and Georgia put them in a strong position and a dramatic 2-2 draw away to Republic of Ireland saw them through.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
1934: winners. 1938: winners. 1950: first round. 1954: first round. 1962: group stage. 1966: group stage. 1970: runners-up. 1974: first round. 1978: first round. 1982: winners. 1986: second round. 1990: third place. 1994: runners-up. 1998: quarter-finals. 2002: second round. 2006: winners.

NICKNAME
Azzurri (the blues).

THE COACH
Marcello Lippi, won everything at Juventus before taking over from Giovanni Trapattoni after Euro 2004. Led Italy to the World Cup Final in Berlin where they beat France 5-3 on penalties. Stepped down afterwards but re-appointed after Euro 2008.

KEY PLAYERS
Goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, defender Fabio Cannavaro, midfielder Daniele De Rossi.

FIFA WORLD RANKING
4

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P10 W7 D3 L0 F18 A7

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
36

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Alberto Gilardino (4), Alberto Aquilani (2), Daniele De Rossi (2), Antonio Di Natale (2), Vincenzo Iaquinta (2).

DISCIPLINE
19 yellows, 1 red.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-3-2-1)
Buffon - Zambrotta, Cannavaro, Chiellini, Grosso - Camoranesi, De Rossi, Pirlo - Di Natale, Rossi - Iaquinta.

Reliable...Buffon

QUALIFIER NO 16

CHILE

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
A 4-2 win in Colombia assured them a finish in the automatic spots in the South American Zone. A crucial 1-0 home win helped them leapfrog Argentina last autumn. Put together an impressive four-match unbeaten run mid-qualification.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
1930: first round. 1950: first round. 1962: third place. 1966: group stage. 1974: group stage. 1982: group stage. 1998: second round.

NICKNAME
La Roja (the reds).

THE COACH
Marcelo Bielsa, surprised many by ending his management exile in 2007 and accepting the Chile job, despite having spent six years managing rivals and his home nation Argentina. Nicknamed *El Loco* for his eccentric behaviour.

KEY PLAYERS
Goalkeeper and captain Claudio Bravo, midfielder Matias Fernandez, forwards Alexis Sanchez and Humberto Suazo.

FIFA WORLD RANKING
21

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P18 W10 D3 L5 F32 A22

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
37

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Humberto Suazo (10), Matias Fernandez (4), Alexis Sanchez (3).

DISCIPLINE
43 yellows, 7 reds.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (3-3-1-3)
Bravo - Medel, Ponce, Jara - Carmona, Estrada, Beausejour - Fernandez - Sanchez, Suazo, Gonzalez.

On the plane to South Africa...Sanchez

QUALIFIER NO 17

USA

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
Top in CONCACAF round 4, having cruised through the earlier rounds while also making the Gold Cup and Confederations Cup Finals.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPERANCES
1930: third place. 1934: first round. 1950: first round. 1990: group stage. 1994: second round. 1998: group stage. 2002: quarter-finals. 2006: group stage.

THE COACH
Bob Bradley, long-time protege of his predecessor Bruce Arena. Took USA to Gold Cup and Confederations Cup Finals this summer, losing to Mexico and Brazil respectively. Son Michael is the midfield enforcer for the national team, leading to accusations of nepotism.

KEY PLAYERS
Goalkeeper Tim Howard, defender Oguchi Onyewu, midfielder Clint Dempsey, forward Landon Donovan.

FIFA WORLD RANKING 11

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P18 W13 D2 L3 F42 A16

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
41

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Jozy Altidore (6), Michael Bradley (5), Clint Dempsey (5), Landon Donovan (5).

DISCIPLINE
24 yellows, 1 red.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-4-1-1)
Howard - Spector, Onyewu, DeMerit, Bocanegra - Dempsey, Clark, Bradley, Kljestan - Donovan – Altidore.

Big hit...Donovan

QUALIFIER NO 18

MEXICO

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
Second in CONCACAF round 4. Turned results round after a shaky start with consecutive defeats to El Salvador and Honduras. Scraped through the earlier preliminary group ahead of Jamaica on head-to-head results.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPERANCES
1930: first round. 1950: group stage. 1954: group stage. 1958: group stage. 1962: group stage. 1966: group stage. 1970: quarter-finals. 1978: group stage. 1986: quarter-finals. 1994: second round. 1998: second round. 2002: second round. 2006: second round.

NICKNAME
El Tricolor.

THE COACH
Javier Aguirre, national team midfielder in the late 1980s who coached the national team during qualification and at the finals of 2002 World Cup. Lost 2001 Copa America Final to Colombia. Left Atletico Madrid in February 2009 and re-hired by Mexico midway through the World Cup qualification after the disastrous tenure of Sven Goran Eriksson.

KEY PLAYERS
Keeper Guillermo Ochoa, defenders Rafael Marquez and Carlos Salcido, midfielder Andres Guardado and recently recalled forward Cuauhtemoc Blanco.

FIFA WORLD RANKING
24

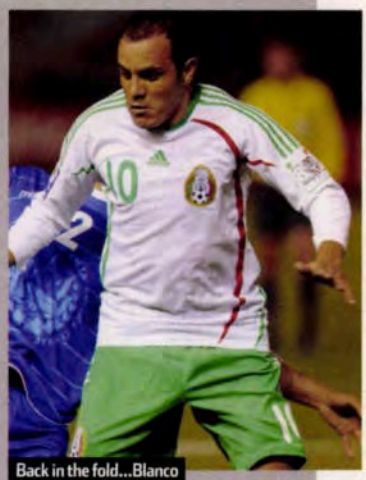
RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
W18 W11 D2 L5 F36 A18

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
42

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Fernando Arce (3), Cuauhtemoc Blanco (3), Jared Borgetti (3), Andres Guardado (3), Pavel Pardo (3), Carlos Vela (3).

DISCIPLINE
32 yellows, 4 reds.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-4-1-1)
G Ochoa - Osorio, Magallon, Marquez, Salcido - Dos Santos, Torrado, Castro, Guardado - Blanco - Franco.


Back in the fold...Blanco

QUALIFIER NO 19

SWITZERLAND

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
Lost at home to Luxembourg but then coasted through Group 2. Wins at home and away to Greece effectively sealed top spot.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
1934: quarter-finals. 1938: quarter-finals. 1950: first round. 1954: quarter-finals. 1962: group stage. 1966: group stage. 1994: second round. 2006: second round.

NICKNAME
La Nati.

THE COACH
Ottmar Hitzfeld, one of the most decorated managers in Europe, having won 15 domestic trophies in Germany and Switzerland, as well as guiding underdogs Borussia Dortmund (1997) and Bayern Munich (2001) to the Champions League. Took over as national coach after Euro 2008.

KEY PLAYERS
Midfielder Tranquillo Barnetta, forwards Alexander Frei and Blaise N'Kufo.

FIFA WORLD RANKING 15

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P10 W6 D3 L1 F18 A8

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
26

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Alexander Frei (5), Blaise N'Kufo (5).

DISCIPLINE
16 yellows, 0 reds.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-4-2)
Benaglio - Lichtsteiner, Grichting, Senderos, Magnin - Padalino, Fernandes, Huggel, Barnetta - N'Kufo, Frei.

Causing problems...Frei

QUALIFIER NO 20

SLOVAKIA

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
Surprise qualifiers from Europe, Slovakia achieved qualification for their first-ever World Cup finals following some important victories, notably over neighbours Czech Republic 2-1 in Prague. Suffered 2-0 home defeat to Slovenia in penultimate game but then beat Poland 1-0 in Chorzow.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
none (as Slovakia).

THE COACH
Vladimir Weiss, the manager of Artmedia Bratislava who famously knocked Celtic out of 2005 Champions League qualifying round. His son, also named Vladimir, plays for Manchester City, and was given his national team debut by his father (see Talent Scout, page 73).

KEY PLAYERS
Defender Martin Skrtel, midfielder Marek Hamsik, forward Stanislav Sestak.

FIFA WORLD RANKING 45

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P10 W7 D1 L2 F22 A10

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
32

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Stanislav Sestak (6).

DISCIPLINE
18 yellows, 2 reds.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-4-2)
Mucha - Pekarik, Skrtel, Durica, Zabavnik - Weiss, Karhan, Strba, Hamsik - Sestak, Vittek.

Top scorer...Sestak

QUALIFIER NO 21

ARGENTINA

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
A disastrous campaign – which included a 6-1 defeat in Bolivia – was only salvaged in the final match of the qualifying section with a narrow 1-0 over Uruguay in Montevideo after a 3-1 defeat at home to Brazil had looked like condemning Argentina to a play-off place.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
1930: runners-up. 1934: first round. 1958: group stage. 1962: group stage. 1966: quarter-finals. 1974: second group phase. 1978: winners. 1982: second group phase. 1986: winners. 1990: runners-up. 1994: second round. 1998: quarter-finals. 2002: group stage. 2006: quarter-finals.

NICKNAME
Albicelestes (whites and sky blues).

THE COACH
Diego Maradona, Argentina's greatest ever player succeeded Alfio Basile in autumn 2008 having had little coaching experience at club level and none at international level.

KEY PLAYERS
Forward Lionel Messi, midfielder Javier Mascherano.

FIFA WORLD RANKING 8

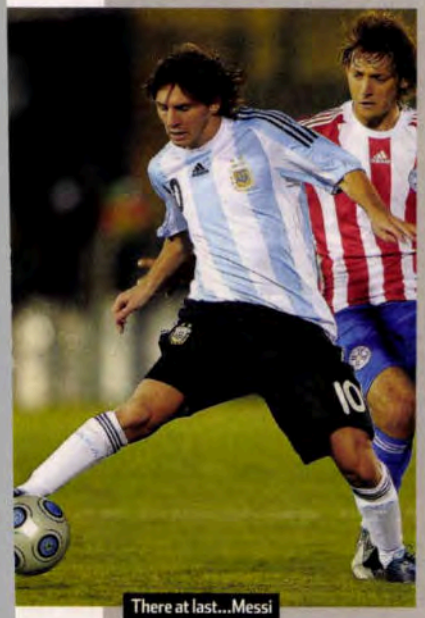
RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P18 W8 D4 L6 F23 A20

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
49

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Sergio Aguero (4), Lionel Messi (4), Juan Roman Riquelme (4).

DISCIPLINE
37 yellows, 4 reds.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-4-2)
Romero - Otamendi, Schiavi, Demichelis, Heinze - Gutierrez, Mascherano, Veron, Di Maria - Messi, Higuain.



There at last...Messi

QUALIFIER NO 22

HONDURAS

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
Third placed in CONCACAF round 4 after a 1-0 win in El Salvador in the final game. Home thrashings of Trinidad & Tobago and Costa Rica helped significantly, as did the 3-1 defeat of Mexico which cost Sven Goran Eriksson his job.

PREVIOUS FINALS APPEARANCES
1982: group stage.

NICKNAME
Los Catrachos.

THE COACH
Reinaldo Rueda, former coach of Colombia's Under-17, Under-20 and full international side who took over Honduras in 2006.

KEY PLAYERS
Forward Carlos Costly, full-back Maynor Figueroa, midfielders Amado Guevara and Wilson Palacios.

FIFA WORLD RANKING 42

RECORD IN QUALIFICATION
P18 W10 D2 L6 F32 A18

PLAYERS USED IN QUALIFICATION
33

LEADING GOALSCORERS IN QUALIFICATION
Carlos Pavon (7), Carlos Costly (6), Julio De Leon (4), David Suazo (4).

DISCIPLINE
38 yellows, 1 red.

TYPICAL LINE-UP (4-4-2)
Valladares - Sabillon, Chavez, Izaguirre, Figueroa - Nunez, Palacios, Guevara, Thomas - Costly, Pavon.

Exciting...Costly

RESULTS

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Q (in tables) = qualified for the finals
P (in tables) = qualified for play-offs

AFRICA

3rd stage

Group winners qualify for the finals

Group A

28.03.09	Togo-Cameroon	1-0
28.03.09	Morocco-Gabon	1-2
06.06.09	Gabon-Togo	3-0
07.06.09	Cameroon-Morocco	0-0
20.06.09	Morocco-Togo	0-0
05.09.09	Gabon-Cameroon	0-2
06.09.09	Togo-Morocco	1-1
09.09.09	Cameroon-Gabon	2-1
10.10.09	Cameroon-Togo	3-0
10.10.09	Gabon-Morocco	3-1

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 3RD STAGE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
Gabon	5	3	0	2	9	6	9
Togo	5	1	2	2	2	7	5
Morocco	5	0	3	2	3	6	3

Remaining games

14.11.09	Morocco-Cameroon
14.11.09	Togo-Gabon

Group B

28.03.09	Kenya-Tunisia	1-2
29.03.09	Mozambique-Nigeria	0-0
06.06.09	Tunisia-Mozambique	2-0
07.06.09	Nigeria-Kenya	3-0
20.06.09	Kenya-Mozambique	2-1
20.06.09	Tunisia-Nigeria	0-0
06.09.09	Mozambique-Kenya	1-0
06.09.09	Nigeria-Tunisia	2-2
11.10.09	Nigeria-Mozambique	1-0
11.10.09	Tunisia-Kenya	1-0

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 3RD STAGE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	5	3	2	0	7	3	11
Nigeria	5	2	3	0	6	2	9
Mozambique	5	1	1	3	2	5	4
Kenya	5	1	0	4	3	8	3

Remaining games

14.11.09	Kenya-Nigeria
14.11.09	Mozambique-Tunisia

Group C

28.03.09	Rwanda-Algeria	0-0
29.03.09	Egypt-Zambia	1-1
06.06.09	Zambia-Rwanda	1-0
07.06.09	Algeria-Egypt	3-1
20.06.09	Zambia-Algeria	0-2
05.07.09	Egypt-Rwanda	3-0
05.09.09	Rwanda-Egypt	0-1
06.09.09	Algeria-Zambia	1-0
10.10.09	Zambia-Egypt	0-1
11.10.09	Algeria-Rwanda	3-1

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 3RD STAGE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	5	4	1	0	9	2	13
Egypt	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Zambia	5	1	1	3	2	5	4
Rwanda	5	0	1	4	1	8	1

Remaining games

14.11.09	Egypt-Algeria
14.11.09	Rwanda-Zambia

Getting closer...Rafik Saifi celebrates an Algerian goal in the 3-1 win at home to Rwanda

Group D

28.03.09	Sudan-Mali	1-1
29.03.09	Ghana-Benin	1-0
07.06.09	Benin-Sudan	1-0
07.06.09	Mali-Ghana	0-2
20.06.09	Sudan-Ghana	0-2
21.06.09	Mali-Benin	3-1
06.09.09	Benin-Mali	1-1
06.09.09	Ghana-Sudan	2-0
11.10.09	Mali-Sudan	1-0
11.10.09	Benin-Ghana	1-0

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 3RD STAGE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana (Q)	5	4	0	1	7	1	12
Mali	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
Benin	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
Sudan	5	0	1	3	1	7	1

Remaining games

14.11.09	Ghana-Mali
14.11.09	Sudan-Benin

Group E

28.03.09	Burkina Faso-Guinea	4-2
29.03.09	Ivory Coast-Malawi	5-0
06.06.09	Malawi-Burkina Faso	0-1
07.06.09	Guinea-Ivory Coast	1-2
20.06.09	Burkina Faso-Ivory Coast	2-3
21.06.09	Guinea-Malawi	2-1
05.09.09	Malawi-Guinea	2-1
05.09.09	Ivory Coast-Burkina Faso	5-0
10.10.09	Malawi-Ivory Coast	1-1
11.10.09	Guinea-Burkina Faso	1-2

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 3RD STAGE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast (Q)	5	4	1	0	16	4	13
Burkina Faso	5	3	0	2	9	11	9
Guinea	5	1	1	3	7	10	4
Malawi	5	1	0	4	7	11	3

Remaining games

14.11.09	Burkina Faso-Malawi
14.11.09	Ivory Coast-Guinea

ASIA

Group 1

WC QUALS: ASIA – 4TH STAGE – GP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia (Q)	8	6	2	0	12	1	20
Japan (Q)	8	4	3	1	11	6	15
Bahrain (P)	8	3	1	4	6	8	10
Qatar	8	1	3	4	5	14	6
Uzbekistan	8	1	1	6	5	10	4

06.09.08	Bahrain-Japan	2-3
06.09.08	Qatar-Uzbekistan	3-0
10.09.08	Qatar-Bahrain	1-1
10.09.08	Uzbekistan-Australia	0-1
15.10.08	Australia-Qatar	4-0
15.10.08	Japan-Uzbekistan	1-1
19.11.08	Bahrain-Australia	0-1
19.11.08	Qatar-Japan	0-3
11.02.09	Japan-Australia	0-0
11.02.09	Uzbekistan-Bahrain	0-1
28.03.09	Japan-Bahrain	1-0
28.03.09	Uzbekistan-Qatar	4-0
01.04.09	Australia-Uzbekistan	2-0
01.04.09	Bahrain-Qatar	1-0
06.06.09	Qatar-Australia	0-0
06.06.09	Uzbekistan-Japan	0-1
10.06.09	Australia-Bahrain	2-0
10.06.09	Japan-Qatar	1-1
17.06.09	Australia-Japan	2-1
17.06.09	Bahrain-Uzbekistan	1-0

Group 2

WC QUALS: ASIA – 4TH STAGE – GP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea (Q)	8	4	4	0	12	4	16
North Korea (Q)	8	3	3	2	7	5	12
Saudi Arabia (P)	8	3	3	2	8	8	12
Iran	8	2	5	1	8	7	11
UAE	8	0	1	7	6	17	1

06.09.08	Saudi Arabia-Iran	1-1
06.09.08	UAE-North Korea	1-2
10.09.08	North Korea-South Korea	1-1
10.09.08	UAE-Saudi Arabia	1-2
15.10.08	Iran-North Korea	2-1
15.10.08	South Korea-UAE	4-1
19.11.08	Saudi Arabia-South Korea	0-2
19.11.08	UAE-Iran	1-1
11.02.09	Iran-South Korea	1-1
11.02.09	North Korea-Saudi Arabia	1-0
28.03.09	Iran-Saudi Arabia	1-2
28.03.09	North Korea-UAE	2-0
01.04.09	Saudi Arabia-UAE	3-2
01.04.09	South Korea-North Korea	1-0
06.06.09	North Korea-Iran	0-0
06.06.09	UAE-South Korea	0-2

CONCACAF

WC QUALS: CONCACAF – 4TH STAGE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
US (Q)	10	6	2	2	19	13	20
Mexico (Q)	10	6	1	3	18	12	19
Honduras (Q)	10	5	1	4	17	11	16
Costa Rica (P)	10	5	1	4	15	15	16
El Salvador	10	2	2	6	9	15	8
Trinidad & Tob	10	1	3	6	10	22	6

02.04.09	Honduras-Mexico	3-1
02.04.09	USA-Trinidad & Tob	3-0
04.06.09	Costa Rica-USA	3-1
07.06.09	El Salvador-Mexico	2-1
07.06.09	USA-Honduras	2-1
11.06.09	Honduras-El Salvador	1-0
11.06.09	Mexico-Trinidad & Tob	2-1
12.08.09	Mexico-USA	2-1
13.08.09	Honduras-Costa Rica	4-0
13.08.09	Trinidad & Tob-El Salvador	1-0
06.09.09	Costa Rica-Mexico	0-3
06.09.09	Honduras-Trinidad & Tob	4-1
06.09.09	USA-El Salvador	2-1
10.09.09	Mexico-Honduras	1-0
10.09.09	Trinidad & Tob-USA	0-1
10.09.09	El Salvador-Costa Rica	1-0
10.10.09	Costa Rica-Trinidad & Tob	4-0
10.10.09	Honduras-United States	2-3
10.10.09	Mexico-El Salvador	4-1
14.10.09	El Salvador-Honduras	0-1
14.10.09	Trinidad & Tob-Mexico	2-2
14.10.09	United States-Costa Rica	2-2

EUROPE

Group 1

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark (Q)	10	6	3	1	16	5	21
Portugal (P)	10	5	4	1	17	5	19
Sweden	10	5	3	2	13	5	18
Hungary	10	5	1	4	10	8	16
Albania	10	1	4	5	6	13	7
Malta	10	0	1	9	0	26	1

06.09.08	Albania-Sweden	0-0
06.09.08	Hungary-Denmark	0-0
06.09.08	Malta-Portugal	0-4
10.09.08	Sweden-Hungary	2-1
10.09.08	Portugal-Denmark	2-3
10.09.08	Albania-Malta	3-0
11.10.08	Hungary-Albania	2-0
11.10.08	Sweden-Portugal	0-0
11.10.08	Denmark-Malta	3-0
15.10.08	Malta-Hungary	0-1
15.10.08	Portugal-Albania	0-0
11.02.09	Malta-Albania	0-0
28.03.09	Malta-Denmark	0-3
28.03.09	Albania-Hungary	0-1
28.03.09	Portugal-Sweden	0-0
01.04.09	Hungary-Malta	3-0
01.04.09	Denmark-Albania	3-0
06.06.09	Sweden-Denmark	0-1
06.06.09	Albania-Portugal	1-2
10.06.09	Sweden-Malta	4-0
05.09.09	Denmark-Portugal	1-1
05.09.09	Hungary-Sweden	1-2
09.09.09	Malta-Sweden	0-1
09.09.09	Albania-Denmark	1-1
09.09.09	Hungary-Portugal	0-1
10.10.09	Denmark-Sweden	1-0
10.10.09	Portugal-Hungary	3-0
14.10.09	Denmark-Hungary	0-1
14.10.09	Portugal-Malta	4-0
14.10.09	Sweden-Albania	4-1

Group 2

Almost there...New Zealand's Chris Wood is denied in the Asia/Oceania play-off 1st leg

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP 2 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland (Q)	10	6	3	1	18	8	21
Greece (P)	10	6	2	2	20	10	20
Latvia	10	5	2	3	18	15	17
Israel	10	4	4	2	20	10	16
Luxembourg	10	1	2	7	4	25	5
Moldova	10	0	3	7	6	18	3

06.09.08 Moldova-Latvia ... 1-2
06.09.08 Luxembourg-Greece ... 0-3
06.09.08 Israel-Switzerland ... 2-2
10.09.08 Switzerland-Luxembourg ... 1-2
10.09.08 Moldova-Israel ... 1-2
10.09.08 Latvia-Greece ... 0-2
11.10.08 Switzerland-Latvia ... 2-1
11.10.08 Luxembourg-Israel ... 1-3
11.10.08 Greece-Moldova ... 3-0
15.10.08 Latvia-Israel ... 1-1
15.10.08 Luxembourg-Moldova ... 0-0
15.10.08 Greece-Switzerland ... 1-2
28.03.09 Luxembourg-Latvia ... 0-4
28.03.09 Moldova-Switzerland ... 0-2
28.03.09 Israel-Greece ... 1-1
01.04.09 Latvia-Luxembourg ... 2-0
01.04.09 Switzerland-Moldova ... 2-0
01.04.09 Greece-Israel ... 2-1
05.09.09 Moldova-Luxembourg ... 0-0
05.09.09 Switzerland-Greece ... 2-0
05.09.09 Israel-Latvia ... 0-1
09.09.09 Israel-Luxembourg ... 7-0
09.09.09 Moldova-Greece ... 1-1
09.09.09 Latvia-Switzerland ... 2-2
10.10.09 Greece-Latvia ... 5-2
10.10.09 Israel-Moldova ... 3-1
10.10.09 Luxembourg-Switzerland ... 0-3
14.10.09 Greece-Luxembourg ... 2-1
14.10.09 Latvia-Moldova ... 3-2
14.10.09 Switzerland-Israel ... 0-0

Group 3

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP 3 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovakia (Q)	10	7	1	2	22	10	22
Slovenia (P)	10	6	2	2	18	4	20
Czech Rep	10	4	4	2	17	6	16
N Ireland	10	4	3	3	13	9	15
Poland	10	3	2	5	19	14	11
San Marino	10	0	0	10	1	47	0

06.09.08 Poland-Slovenia ... 1-1
06.09.08 Slovakia-Northern Ireland ... 2-1
10.09.08 Northern Ireland-Czech Rep ... 0-0
10.09.08 San Marino-Poland ... 0-2
10.09.08 Slovenia-Slovakia ... 2-1
11.10.08 San Marino-Slovakia ... 1-3
11.10.08 Poland-Czech Rep ... 2-1
11.10.08 Slovenia-Northern Ireland ... 2-0
15.10.08 Czech Rep-Slovenia ... 1-0
15.10.08 Northern Ireland-San Marino ... 4-0
15.10.08 Slovakia-Poland ... 2-1
19.11.08 San Marino-Czech Rep ... 0-3
11.02.09 San Marino-Northern Ireland ... 0-3
28.03.09 Northern Ireland-Poland ... 3-2
28.03.09 Slovenia-Czech Rep ... 0-0
01.04.09 Northern Ireland-Slovenia ... 1-0
01.04.09 Czech Rep-Slovakia ... 1-2
01.04.09 Poland-San Marino ... 10-0
06.06.09 Slovakia-San Marino ... 7-0
12.08.09 Slovenia-San Marino ... 5-0
05.09.09 Slovakia-Czech Rep ... 2-2
05.09.09 Poland-Northern Ireland ... 1-1
09.09.09 Czech Rep-San Marino ... 7-0
09.09.09 Northern Ireland-Slovakia ... 0-2
09.09.09 Slovenia-Poland ... 3-0
10.10.09 Czech Rep-Poland ... 2-0
10.10.09 Slovakia-Slovenia ... 0-2
14.10.09 Czech Rep-Northern Ireland ... 0-0
14.10.09 Poland-Slovakia ... 0-1
14.10.09 San Marino-Slovenia ... 0-3

Group 4

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP 4 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany (Q)	10	8	2	0	26	5	26
Russia (P)	10	7	1	2	19	6	22
Finland	10	5	3	2	14	14	18
Wales	10	4	0	6	9	12	12
Azerbaijan	10	1	2	7	4	14	5
Liechtenstein	10	0	2	8	2	23	2

06.09.08 Wales-Azerbaijan ... 1-0
06.09.08 Liechtenstein-Germany ... 0-6
10.09.08 Russia-Wales ... 2-1
10.09.08 Finland-Germany ... 3-3
10.09.08 Azerbaijan-Liechtenstein ... 0-0
11.10.08 Finland-Azerbaijan ... 1-0
11.10.08 Wales-Liechtenstein ... 2-0
11.10.08 Germany-Russia ... 2-1
15.10.08 Russia-Finland ... 3-0
15.10.08 Germany-Wales ... 1-0
28.03.09 Wales-Finland ... 0-2
28.03.09 Russia-Azerbaijan ... 2-0
28.03.09 Germany-Liechtenstein ... 4-0
01.04.09 Liechtenstein-Russia ... 0-1
01.04.09 Wales-Germany ... 0-2
06.06.09 Finland-Liechtenstein ... 2-1
06.06.09 Azerbaijan-Wales ... 0-1
10.06.09 Finland-Russia ... 0-3
12.08.09 Azerbaijan-Germany ... 0-2
05.09.09 Russia-Liechtenstein ... 3-0
05.09.09 Azerbaijan-Finland ... 1-2
09.09.09 Liechtenstein-Finland ... 1-1
09.09.09 Wales-Russia ... 1-3
09.09.09 Germany-Azerbaijan ... 4-0
10.10.09 Finland-Wales ... 2-1
10.10.09 Liechtenstein-Azerbaijan ... 0-2
10.10.09 Russia-Germany ... 0-1
14.10.09 Azerbaijan-Russia ... 1-1
14.10.09 Germany-Finland ... 1-1
14.10.09 Liechtenstein-Wales ... 0-2

Group 5

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP 5 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain (Q)	10	10	0	0	28	5	30
Bosnia-Herz (P)	10	6	1	3	25	13	19
Turkey	10	4	3	3	13	10	15
Belgium	10	3	1	6	13	20	10
Estonia	10	2	2	6	9	24	8
Armenia	10	1	1	8	6	22	4

06.09.08 Belgium-Estonia ... 3-2
06.09.08 Armenia-Turkey ... 0-2
06.09.08 Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina ... 1-0
10.09.08 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Estonia ... 7-0
10.09.08 Turkey-Belgium ... 1-1
10.09.08 Spain-Armenia ... 4-0
11.10.08 Belgium-Armenia ... 2-0
11.10.08 Turkey-Bosnia-Herzegovina ... 2-1
11.10.08 Estonia-Spain ... 0-3
15.10.08 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Armenia ... 4-1
15.10.08 Belgium-Spain ... 1-2
15.10.08 Estonia-Turkey ... 0-0
28.03.09 Armenia-Estonia ... 2-2
28.03.09 Belgium-Bosnia-Herzegovina ... 2-4
28.03.09 Spain-Turkey ... 1-0
01.04.09 Estonia-Armenia ... 1-0
01.04.09 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Belgium ... 2-1
01.04.09 Turkey-Spain ... 1-2
05.09.09 Armenia-Bosnia-Herzegovina ... 0-2
05.09.09 Turkey-Estonia ... 4-2
05.09.09 Spain-Belgium ... 5-0
09.09.09 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Turkey ... 1-1
09.09.09 Armenia-Belgium ... 2-1
09.09.09 Spain-Estonia ... 3-0
10.10.09 Armenia-Spain ... 1-2
10.10.09 Belgium-Turkey ... 2-0
10.10.09 Estonia-Bosnia-Herzegovina ... 0-2
14.10.09 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain ... 2-5
14.10.09 Estonia-Belgium ... 2-0
14.10.09 Turkey-Armenia ... 2-0

Group 6

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP 6 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England (Q)	10	9	0	1	34	6	27
Ukraine (P)	10	6	3	1	21	6	21
Croatia	10	6	2	2	19	13	20
Belarus	10	4	1	5	19	14	13
Kazakhstan	10	2	0	8	11	29	6
Andorra	10	0	0	10	3	39	0

20.08.08 Kazakhstan-Andorra ... 3-0
06.09.08 Ukraine-Belarus ... 1-0
06.09.08 Andorra-England ... 0-2
06.09.08 Croatia-Kazakhstan ... 3-0
10.09.08 Andorra-Belarus ... 1-3
10.09.08 Croatia-England ... 1-4
10.09.08 Kazakhstan-Ukraine ... 1-3
11.10.08 England-Kazakhstan ... 5-1
11.10.08 Ukraine-Croatia ... 0-0
15.10.08 Croatia-Andorra ... 4-0
15.10.08 Belarus-England ... 1-3
01.04.09 England-Ukraine ... 2-1
01.04.09 Kazakhstan-Belarus ... 1-5
01.04.09 Andorra-Croatia ... 0-2
06.06.09 Belarus-Andorra ... 5-1
06.06.09 Croatia-Ukraine ... 2-2
06.06.09 Kazakhstan-England ... 0-4
10.06.09 Ukraine-Kazakhstan ... 2-1
10.06.09 Englan-Andorra ... 6-0
12.08.09 Belarus-Croatia ... 1-3
05.09.09 Ukraine-Andorra ... 5-0
05.09.09 Croatia-Belarus ... 1-0
09.09.09 England-Croatia ... 5-1
09.09.09 Belarus-Ukraine ... 0-0
09.09.09 Andorra-Kazakhstan ... 1-3
10.10.09 Belarus-Kazakhstan ... 4-0
10.10.09 Ukraine-England ... 1-0
14.10.09 Andorra-Ukraine ... 0-6
14.10.09 England-Belarus ... 3-0
14.10.09 Kazakhstan-Croatia ... 1-2

Group 7

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP 7 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia (Q)	10	7	1	2	22	8	22
France (P)	10	6	3	1	18	9	21
Austria	10	4	2	4	14	15	14
Lithuania	10	4	0	6	10	11	12
Romania	10	3	3	4	12	18	12
Faroe Islands	10	1	1	8	5	20	4

06.09.08 Serbia-Faroe Islands ... 2-0
06.09.08 Austria-France ... 3-1
06.09.08 Romania-Lithuania ... 0-3
10.09.08 Faroe Islands-Romania ... 0-1
10.09.08 Lithuania-Austria ... 2-0
10.09.08 France-Serbia ... 2-1
11.10.08 Faroe Islands-Austria ... 1-1
11.10.08 Serbia-Lithuania ... 3-0
11.10.08 Romania-France ... 2-2
15.10.08 Lithuania-Faroe Islands ... 1-0
15.10.08 Austria-Serbia ... 1-3
28.03.09 Romania-Serbia ... 2-3
28.03.09 Lithuania-France ... 0-1
01.04.09 Austria-Romania ... 2-1
01.04.09 France-Lithuania ... 1-0
06.06.09 Serbia-Austria ... 1-0
06.06.09 Lithuania-Romania ... 0-1
10.06.09 Faroe Islands-Serbia ... 0-2
12.08.09 Faroe Islands-France ... 0-1
05.09.09 Austria-Faroe Islands ... 3-1
05.09.09 France-Romania ... 1-1
09.09.09 Faroe Islands-Lithuania ... 2-1
09.09.09 Romania-Austria ... 1-1
09.09.09 Serbia-France ... 1-1
10.10.09 Austria-Lithuania ... 2-1
10.10.09 France-Faroe Islands ... 5-0
10.10.09 Serbia-Romania ... 5-0
14.10.09 France-Austria ... 3-1
14.10.09 Lithuania-Serbia ... 2-1
14.10.09 Romania-Faroe Islands ... 3-1

Group 8

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP 8 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy (Q)	10	7	3	0	18	7	24
Rep Ireland (P)	10	4	6	0	12	8	18
Bulgaria	10	3	5	2	17	13	14
Cyprus	10	2	3	5	14	16	9
Montenegro	10	1	6	3	9	14	9
Georgia	10	0	3	7	7	19	3

Heading for the finals...Mauro Camoranesi (far right) scores for Italy against Republic of Ireland

Read more at worldsoccer.com/competitions/worldcup

06.09.08	Georgia-Rep Ireland	1-2
06.09.08	Montenegro-Bulgaria	2-2
06.09.08	Cyprus-Italy	1-2
10.09.08	Montenegro-Rep Ireland	0-0
10.09.08	Italy-Georgia	2-0
11.10.08	Georgia-Cyprus	1-1
11.10.08	Bulgaria-Italy	0-0
15.10.08	Rep Ireland-Cyprus	1-0
15.10.08	Georgia-Bulgaria	0-0
15.10.08	Italy-Montenegro	2-1
11.02.09	Rep Ireland-Georgia	2-1
28.03.09	Rep Ireland-Bulgaria	1-1
28.03.09	Cyprus-Georgia	2-1
28.03.09	Montenegro-Italy	0-2
01.04.09	Bulgaria-Cyprus	2-0
01.04.09	Italy-Rep Ireland	1-1
01.04.09	Georgia-Montenegro	0-0
06.06.09	Cyprus-Montenegro	2-2
06.06.09	Bulgaria-Rep Ireland	1-1
05.09.09	Bulgaria-Montenegro	4-1
05.09.09	Cyprus-Rep Ireland	1-2
05.09.09	Georgia-Italy	0-2
09.09.09	Montenegro-Cyprus	1-1
09.09.09	Italy-Bulgaria	2-0
10.10.09	Cyprus-Bulgaria	4-1
10.10.09	Montenegro-Georgia	2-1
10.10.09	Rep Ireland-Italy	3-2
14.10.09	Bulgaria-Georgia	6-2
14.10.09	Italy-Cyprus	2-2
14.10.09	Rep Ireland-Montenegro	0-0

Group 9

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP 9 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland (Q)	8	8	0	0	17	2	24
Norway	8	2	4	2	9	7	10
Scotland	8	3	1	4	6	11	10
Macedonia	8	2	1	5	5	11	7
Iceland	8	1	2	5	7	13	5

05.09.09	Cyprus-Rep Ireland	1-2
06.09.08	Macedonia-Scotland	1-0
06.09.08	Norway-Iceland	2-2
10.09.08	Iceland-Scotland	1-2
10.09.08	Macedonia-Holland	1-2
11.10.08	Scotland-Norway	0-0
11.10.08	Holland-Iceland	2-0
15.10.08	Iceland-Macedonia	1-0
15.10.08	Norway-Holland	0-1
28.03.09	Holland-Scotland	3-0
01.04.09	Scotland-Iceland	2-1
01.04.09	Holland-Macedonia	4-0
06.06.09	Macedonia-Norway	0-0
06.06.09	Iceland-Holland	1-2
10.06.09	Macedonia-Iceland	2-0
10.06.09	Holland-Norway	2-0
12.08.09	Norway-Scotland	4-0
05.09.09	Scotland-Macedonia	2-0
05.09.09	Iceland-Norway	1-1
09.09.09	Scotland-Holland	0-1
09.09.09	Norway-Macedonia	2-1

OCEANIA

WC QUALS: OCEANIA – 2ND STAGE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand (P)	6	5	0	1	14	5	15
New Caledonia	6	2	2	2	12	10	8
Fiji	6	2	1	3	8	11	7
Vanuatu	6	1	1	4	5	13	4

17.10.07	Fiji-New Zealand	0-2
17.11.07	Fiji-New Caledonia	3-3
17.11.07	Vanuatu-New Zealand	1-2
21.11.07	New Caledonia-Fiji	4-0
21.11.07	New Zealand-Vanuatu	4-1
14.06.08	Vanuatu-New Caledonia	1-1
21.06.08	New Caledonia-Vanuatu	3-0
06.09.08	Fiji-Vanuatu	2-0
06.09.08	New Caledonia-New Zealand	1-3
10.09.08	New Zealand-New Caledonia	3-0
10.09.08	Vanuatu-Fiji	2-1
19.11.08	New Zealand-Fiji	0-2

SOUTH AMERICA

WC QUALS: SOUTH AMERICA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil (Q)	18	9	7	2	33	11	34
Chile (Q)	18	10	3	5	32	22	33
Paraguay (Q)	18	10	3	5	24	16	33
Argentina (Q)	18	8	4	6	23	20	28
Uruguay (P)	18	6	6	6	28	20	24
Ecuador	18	6	5	7	22	26	23
Colombia	18	6	5	7	14	18	23
Venezuela	18	6	4	8	23	29	22
Bolivia	18	4	3	11	22	36	15
Peru	18	3	4	11	11	34	13

13.10.07	Uruguay-Bolivia	5-0
13.10.07	Argentina-Chile	2-0
13.10.07	Ecuador-Venezuela	0-1
14.10.07	Peru-Paraguay	0-0
14.10.07	Colombia-Brazil	0-0
17.10.07	Venezuela-Argentina	0-2
17.10.07	Bolivia-Colombia	0-0
17.10.07	Paraguay-Uruguay	1-0
18.10.07	Chile-Peru	2-0
18.10.07	Brazil-Ecuador	5-0
17.11.07	Argentina-Bolivia	3-0
17.11.07	Colombia-Venezuela	1-0
18.11.07	Paraguay-Ecuador	5-1
18.11.07	Peru-Brazil	1-1
18.11.07	Uruguay-Chile	2-2
20.11.07	Venezuela-Bolivia	5-3
21.11.07	Colombia-Argentina	2-1
21.11.07	Ecuador-Peru	5-1
22.11.07	Brazil-Uruguay	2-1
22.11.07	Chile-Paraguay	0-3
14.06.08	Uruguay-Venezuela	1-1
15.06.08	Peru-Colombia	1-1
15.06.08	Paraguay-Brazil	2-0
15.06.08	Argentina-Ecuador	1-1
16.06.08	Bolivia-Chile	0-2
17.06.08	Uruguay-Peru	6-0
18.06.08	Bolivia-Paraguay	4-2
18.06.08	Ecuador-Colombia	0-0
19.06.08	Brazil-Argentina	0-0
20.06.08	Venezuela-Chile	2-3
06.09.08	Argentina-Paraguay	1-1
06.09.08	Ecuador-Bolivia	3-1
07.09.08	Colombia-Uruguay	0-1
07.09.08	Peru-Venezuela	1-0
08.09.08	Chile-Brazil	0-3
10.09.08	Paraguay-Venezuela	2-0
10.09.08	Uruguay-Ecuador	0-0
10.09.08	Chile-Colombia	4-0
11.09.08	Peru-Argentina	1-1
11.09.08	Brazil-Bolivia	0-0
11.10.08	Bolivia-Peru	3-0
11.10.08	Argentina-Uruguay	2-1
12.10.08	Colombia-Paraguay	0-1
12.10.08	Venezuela-Brazil	0-4
12.10.08	Ecuador-Chile	1-0
14.10.08	Bolivia-Uruguay	2-2
15.10.08	Paraguay-Peru	1-0
16.10.08	Chile-Argentina	1-0
16.10.08	Venezuela-Ecuador	3-1
16.10.08	Brazil-Colombia	0-0
28.03.09	Uruguay-Paraguay	2-0
28.03.09	Argentina-Venezuela	4-0
29.03.09	Colombia-Bolivia	2-0
29.03.09	Ecuador-Brazil	1-1
30.03.09	Peru-Chile	1-3
01.04.09	Venezuela-Colombia	2-0
06.06.09	Uruguay-Brazil	0-4
06.06.09	Bolivia-Venezuela	0-1
06.06.09	Argentina-Colombia	1-0
06.06.09	Paraguay-Chile	0-2
07.06.09	Peru-Ecuador	1-2
10.06.09	Ecuador-Argentina	2-0
11.06.09	Colombia-Peru	1-0
11.06.09	Venezuela-Uruguay	2-2
11.06.09	Chile-Bolivia	4-0
11.06.09	Brazil-Paraguay	2-1
05.09.09	Peru-Uruguay	1-0
05.09.09	Colombia-Ecuador	2-0
05.09.09	Paraguay-Bolivia	1-0
06.09.09	Argentina-Brazil	1-3
06.09.09	Chile-Venezuela	2-2
09.09.09	Bolivia-Ecuador	1-3
09.09.09	Uruguay-Colombia	3-1
10.09.09	Paraguay-Argentina	1-0
10.09.09	Venezuela-Peru	3-1
10.09.09	Brazil-Chile	4-2
10.10.09	Argentina-Peru	2-1
10.10.09	Bolivia-Brazil	2-1
10.10.09	Colombia-Chile	2-4
10.10.09	Ecuador-Uruguay	1-2
10.10.09	Venezuela-Paraguay	1-2
14.10.09	Brazil-Venezuela	0-0
14.10.09	Chile-Ecuador	1-0
14.10.09	Peru-Bolivia	1-0
14.10.09	Uruguay-Argentina	0-1
14.10.09	Paraguay-Colombia	0-2

PLAY-OFFS

Asia play-off

05.09.09	Bahrain-Saudi Arabia	0-0
09.09.09	Saudi Arabia-Bahrain	2-2

Asia/Oceania play-off

10.10.09	Bahrain-New Zealand	0-0
14.11.09	New Zealand-Bahrain	

CONCACAF/South America play-off

14.11.09	Costa Rica/Uruguay
18.11.09	Costa Rica/Uruguay

Europe play-offs

1st legs - 14.11.09
2nd legs - 18.11.09
Russia, France, Greece, Portugal, Ukraine, Rep Ireland, Bosnia, Slovenia
Draw to be made 19.10.09

QUALIFIED FOR FINALS

South Africa (as hosts)
Argentina
Australia
Brazil
Chile
Denmark
England
Germany
Ghana
Holland
Honduras
Italy
Ivory Coast
Japan
Mexico
North Korea
Paraguay
Serbia
Slovakia
South Korea
Spain
Switzerland
USA
(22 qualifiers out of 31)

Down but not out...Angel Di Maria's Argentina almost slipped up against Peru and Nolberto Solano (in red)

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GULF STARS

Nick Bidwell looks at half a dozen of the biggest names playing in the Middle East leagues

Afonso ALVES
AL SADD

THIS SEASON, his first in Qatar since a £7million move from Middlesbrough in June, is vital for the Brazilian as he tries to puts his career back on track after a largely ineffective 18 months in the English top flight.

Prior to setting up home in Teesside, Alves had been synonymous with goals, scoring them from all angles at Orgryte and Malmo in Sweden, and for Dutch side Heerenveen, where he managed 34 in 31 league games in 2006-07 to finish runner-up to Francesco Totti in the ESM Golden Shoe standings.

There followed a £12.7m switch to Boro in January 2008, only for him to find Premier League defences far tougher to crack. He had his moments of glory – in the spring of 2008 he was twice on target against Manchester United and a few weeks later he helped himself to a hat-trick versus Manchester City – but, by and large, he proved a flop, often looking exactly what he was: a stranger in a strange land.

Now 28, he is unlikely to add to the eight Brazil caps he won during his Heerenveen days, but these days he claims he is simply glad just to have some sunshine on his back after eight years in northern Europe.

Mirel RADOI
AL HILAL

THE NEWS last January that the Romania centre-back or defensive midfielder had quit Steaua Bucharest for the Saudi Arabia titans was a huge surprise. Capped 56 times by his country and a player with Steaua since 2000, the 28-year-old had seemed tied to the club for life, being very close to owner Gigi Becali and apparently more than happy to swot away the many job offers from Spanish, Italian and English admirers. So why the volte-face?

The presence at the Al Hilal coaching wheel of former Steaua coach Cosmin Olaroiu was a factor in the switch, though petrodollars played a bigger part. Under pressure from the global recession, Becali was always going to be tempted by the £6million Al Hilal put on the table, with Steaua's previous record for an outgoing player being the £3.4m received from Real Madrid back for Gheorghe Hagi in 1990.

KIM
AL ARABI

CARLOS HENRIQUE DIAS, to give the Brazilian attacker his full name, could have been featuring at the deluxe end of the European market this season.

Thanks to a sequence of superlative performances on the right wing or at centre-forward for French side Nancy, he was hotly tipped to move to Roma, Marseille, Lyon or Porto in the summer of 2008. However, the would-be buyers baulked at the asking price of around £10million and instead Kim signed a three-year contract with Al Arabi in Qatar, where his electrifying dribbling and astonishing array of tricks have made him a massive crowd favourite.

This is not his first stint in the Gulf; after coming through the ranks of Atletico Mineiro and showing up well for the first team, he was 23 when he left for a two-year sojourn in the Saudi city of Jeddah with Al Ahli.

He may be 29 now, and a guaranteed crowd pleaser, but there are still times when he has to come to terms with the notion that football is a team game.

SIX OF THE BEST

LEANDRO
AL SADD

A CLASSY BRAZILIAN striker who was recruited this summer from Asian champions Gamba Osaka. Aged 24, he had been tipped to head for Europe but instead opted to sign a three-year deal with Qatari club Al Sadd.

The trade route from Osaka to the Gulf has been well-trodden in recent times by Brazilian forwards, with ex-international Magno Alves moving to Umm Salal in Qatar via Saudi outfit Al Ittihad and 27-year-old Bare taking up residence at United Arab Emirates side Al Ahli.

Al Sadd are banking on Leandro maintaining the sharpness in the box that he regularly demonstrated at Gamba, where he scored 11 goals in 21 J.League fixtures and another 10 in the Asian Champions League.

After learning his trade as a youngster at Sao Paulo heavyweights Corinthians and lesser Paulista side Nacional, he barely made an impression on the Brazilian pro scene and left disenchanted for Japan in 2005, dipping his toe in the water for Omiya Arija, before diving into an Olympic-size pool of goals at Montedio Yamagata and Vissel Kobe, quitting the latter for Gamba last year.

JUNINHO
AL GHARAFA

FOR EIGHT YEARS the Brazil midfielder was the heart and soul of a Lyon side which totally dominated Ligue 1.

A great passer and strategist, deadly from free-kicks – he scored 44 goals from dead-ball situations during his time in France – and an exemplary captain, the 34-year-old reached the conclusion in May that he had come to the end of the OL road and, looking to make one last financial killing, agreed to join Qatari champions Al Gharafa in a two-season deal reported to be worth £7million.

However, he may be regretting his switch to the desert. He struggled during the pre-season Sheikh Jassem Cup and, in the semi-final defeat to Umm Salal, was sent off for heatedly disputing a penalty. To rub salt into the wounds, he was then handed a five-match ban, a punishment he did not accept with equanimity.

"I'm a target out here," he told the local media. "Officials frequently single me out. It seems I'm paying unjustly for being a star."

LEE Young-pyo
AL HILAL

THE SAUDI club's Belgian coach Eric Gerets knows a good attacking full-back when he sees one, having filled the role admirably himself, earning top billing internationally, as well as at club level with Standard Liege, Milan and PSV Eindhoven.

On arriving in Riyadh last spring he recommended his new princely employers make contact with Borussia Dortmund to enquire about the availability of the 32-year-old South Korea left-back, knowing there was a good chance the German club would do business as they had only signed Lee from Tottenham in 2008 as a stop-gap for long-term injury victim Dede.

With the latter back in the saddle again, Lee was not keen to sit on the bench and Borussia needed no encouragement to begin negotiations. In next to no time Lee had signed a one-year deal with an option for a further season.

Besides his trademark diligence and hyperactivity, Lee will bring a wealth of experience to the Saudi Pro League, having won 107 full caps, played in the final stages of two World Cups (2002 and 2006) and had a half-dozen seasons in Europe with PSV, Spurs and Dortmund.

FACE TO FACE

Interviews with football's biggest names

Diego Forlan

"If it's about numbers, I am the best striker – at the moment. Winning the Golden Shoe in any team is difficult"

Diego Forlan

Atletico Madrid's Uruguayan striker on winning the ESM Golden Shoe for a second time

Golden double

Congratulations. You're the only player to win the Golden Shoe twice – and with two different clubs, first Villarreal and now Atletico Madrid. But it's been a long time coming for the Forlan family – you have quite a footballing heritage...
Yes, my father [Pablo Forlan] was a right-back at Montevideo and he played in the World Cups of 1966 and 1974. He also played in qualifying for the 1970 World Cup but he didn't go because he was playing in Brazil for Sao Paulo and there was no rule obliging clubs to release players so he was forced to stay there. My grandfather [Juan Carlos Corazo], my mother's father, played too. In fact he was my father's coach in the national team, although I don't remember which year that was. My brother played as well. Football dominated our home; we were always talking about football and watching football.

So football is in your family genes. But is goalscoring a natural quality?
A bit of it is, of course. All goalscorers have a natural sense of intuition and anticipation – an awareness of where to be and when. But with me it's been about hard work, insistence. I always try to improve. I practise every shot, every play, everything, over and over.

Does that explain your ambidexterity? Or is that natural? Last season, you scored as many goals with your left foot as your right.
I used both feet when I was young. When I was really young my father would take me to the pitch and keep on telling me to shoot with my left foot. I was naturally right footed but we practised and practised with my left until it became second nature. That was because my dad knew it would be important for my career.

Is it fair to say that your father was the main reason you became a professional?
Yes. And [the main reason I became] a striker. When I was really young, someone gave me a Harald Schumacher shirt from the 1986 World Cup and I liked Jean-Marie Pfaff too. I was keen on being a goalkeeper, but my father always said: "No, you have to be a striker." He'd been a defender and he said strikers are the ones that earn more money. He kept on saying it. In the end, I preferred playing as a striker anyway.

You were a tennis player, weren't you?
Yes, I played a lot until I was 16. I had to make a decision to play tennis or football.

You chose football. Was that a professional decision or was it a question of what you enjoyed more?
At that moment, I was young. I chose football, then I stopped and went back to tennis, then I grew tired of that and stopped playing any sport – I just concentrated on studying and enjoying myself. But when the time came, I went back to football. Football was the sport I always liked the most and I also had an opportunity to play because my father was coaching at Penarol in Uruguay and he tried to convince me to go there for a trial. I began to enjoy it more and to look forward to the possibility of actually making it as a professional.

That sounds like you didn't much like football as a kid; the decision to return to it sounds like a professional one. Is football more of a job than a labour of love?
At that moment, I was studying and enjoying my time with my friends. At the weekend, I didn't want the obligation. If you had a game, that meant staying in, not going out with your friends. You can't enjoy life – as a child I preferred being with my friends. But when I had the opportunity to start playing with a good team, I took it and came to love it. I love the game now. I enjoy training and playing. It's a really nice job. In fact, it's not a job.

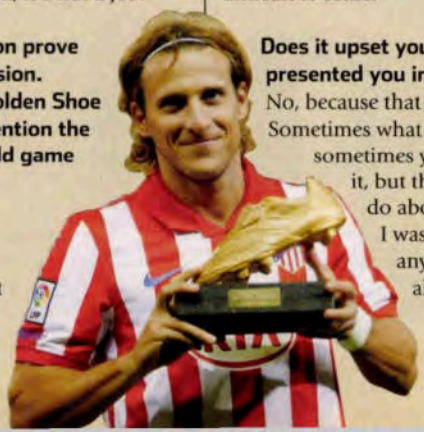
Your 32 goals last season prove you made the right decision. You've won a second Golden Shoe and yet when people mention the biggest stars in the world game they talk about Messi, Ibrahimovic, Torres or Ronaldo. Do you feel underrated?
I'm used to it. It's not just today that people underestimate me, this has been the case for a few years. The strikers you mention play in big teams and are great strikers. Then there's the press, marketing...lots of factors are involved [when people make their judgements]. But I've won two Golden Shoes and I know that my name will stay in the football history books forever. I'm not too worried about being overlooked.

Are you the best striker in the world? This award suggests you are.
Well, if it's about numbers, I am the best striker – at the moment. Winning the Golden Shoe in any team is difficult but with Villarreal and Atletico Madrid, who are not the strongest teams in Spain, maybe it's even harder. It's a great achievement.

How do you explain the fact that you've won the Golden Shoe twice but had such a difficult time in England? You got 10 league goals in your time there, compared to 54 at Villarreal and 50 at Atletico.
The answer is simple: I didn't play in many games [at Manchester United]. I didn't start right away in the first team when I arrived. I knew it would be hard because they had a great team. It was the coach's decision and you have to accept that. I was very young and I learnt a lot, but it wasn't easy. It was not the way the press said, either. The papers said I had played I-don't-know-how-many games and scored hardly any goals. But if you look at the minutes I played and the goals I scored, the percentage was good. I enjoyed my time there and was confident, but I didn't have the opportunity to play many games – certainly not many games in a row – which makes it difficult to settle.

Does it upset you that the media presented you in that light?
No, because that is a reality. Sometimes what they say is true, sometimes you do not agree with it, but there's nothing you can do about it. I knew where I was and I don't regret anything because I did all I could.

Interview by Sid Lowe



Carlos Alberto Parreira

Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning coach on why his compatriots will be the team to beat next summer

"Going forward, no one can stop us"

Brazil are already favourites to win the World Cup for a record-extending sixth time next year. Is that justified?
Yes – because Brazil have got it just right to win the World Cup. I've been watching the team closely of course over the last 15 months in the qualifiers. I am not saying that Brazil are ready to go to South Africa and play especially good football, but I can say that they are ready to go there and win. There is a difference. But I have been with Brazil to four World Cups in different roles and I have this strong feeling about their chances now. It's because they look so solid in defence and this is the big challenge for any national coach of ours: teaching the team to defend.

> The problem South Africa have is the way the game is organised in the country

But that is not enough on its own, is it?
No, but it is an essential part of the work. People didn't used to believe that, but it has always been true. Then, once the team has learned to defend no one else can play as well as we can. We can pass, we can create play as well as any other team in the world – and better than most. Since he became coach, Dunga has worked to build a team which can get nine men behind the ball when it is defending; then, going forward, no one can stop us.

Brazil could almost have run up double figures against Italy in the Confederations Cup couldn't they?
Yes, but don't take the Confederations Cup too seriously as a guide. It was the end of the season and the European players were tired, particularly the older ones. Italy will be a different proposition if we have to play them next year in the World Cup. Different, but not unbeatable, of course. We can score goals from so many areas of the pitch, not just with Kaka, Luis Fabiano, Robinho and so on.

You were manager of South Africa before you had to return home to Brazil. How do you rate their prospects for the World Cup in front of their own fans?
The challenge is the same for any host nation: you have to get past the first round. That is important for the team, it's important for the home fans and it's also important for the tournament. They did well in the end at the Confederations Cup in reaching the semi-finals but it will be very different when it's the World Cup. The other countries will bring their strongest teams and they will all be fit and focused. South Africa should not be overconfident because they finished fourth at the Confederations Cup and nearly beat Spain.

Is there a big risk that South Africa will go out in the first round?
I don't think so. I think they can go to the second round, though obviously that depends partly on what the draw in December provides. The problem they have to face comes from the way the game is organised in South Africa. There is no proper youth development system and that is a major problem. Young players do not come through in the quality or quantity they should do, the way they do in many other countries.

What can be done?
Nothing that will make any difference in time for the national team at the World Cup. The league in South Africa is very powerful and that creates problems for national team development. When I was national coach I went to the league and suggested that they allow only two foreign players per team per game. At least that would have been some sort of encouragement and help for South Africa's own home-grown players. But they wouldn't do it. It's a pity. As a short-term answer it would have helped. It would have given greater opportunity and confidence for home-based players.

Finally, how do you feel about Rio de Janeiro being chosen to host the Olympic Games in 2016 – two years after Brazil stages the World Cup?
It's great – we deserved it and we are ready for it. The political system is very stable now, far more than for years. The infrastructure will be ready – and the World Cup, of course, will have helped. There is no better time for Brazil than now. I was with President Lula in Copenhagen [for the voting] and I can say there has never been a Brazilian president who puts so much time and effort into his personal support of sport. This is very important because in Brazil we don't have the sort of private-sector system as they do, for instance, in the United States. So organising events such as the World Cup and the Olympic Games all depends on public money, not the private sector – that is non-existent.

Interview by Keir Radnedge

Giovanni Trapattoni

The veteran Italian coach on unfinished business with the Republic of Ireland

"We can beat any nation in a play-off"

What have you done to get Ireland back on track?
I have helped the players to believe again. They did not believe they could win as an Irish team, but this attitude is changing. I knew that once we got the players to believe in themselves, and in us as coaches, that we would make progress. Now I can see they are getting into good habits and they are conscious of the little situations in games that are so important. Corners, free-kicks – they can change a game, but the mentality was not right when I arrived.

How do you change the mentality of the team?
Tell them not to fear any opponent. There is no reason why this Ireland team should not do better than it did in recent years. All the players are working in the strongest league in the world: the Premier League. They would not be there unless they had top quality and I told them from the start not to accept the established order in international football. So, when you go to play Italy, don't believe they are better than you before a ball has been kicked.

Adamant...Ireland refuses to return to the colours

What do you think of FIFA's decision to seed the draw for the World Cup qualifying play-offs?
I have said that decisions like this will kill football and I stand by that. We all know it should be an open draw, to give everyone a fair chance, but they change the rules when it is clear some of the big nations cannot qualify. Some of the people making the decisions are from countries that need some help at this moment. It was a sad decision for the game, but I will say to my players not to let it upset us. If we play France, Russia or any of the big nations in a play-off, we can beat them. We have already come through a tough group so why not upset the expectations again?

You have come under fire in some sections of the Irish media for not getting Stephen Ireland to come out of international retirement. How do you react to that?
If the player does not want to play for his country, there is nothing I can do. I believe he will regret this decision when he is older because there is a chance he could have helped his country to make the World Cup finals. I have had conversations with him, but he says he is happy not to play. My door is always open to him and some of the best champions of the past have enjoyed successful comebacks. He can be like them if he wishes.

Did you have any doubts about signing a new contract with Ireland?
It would have been a shame to walk away from the job we have done here as the work is not finished. My wife wants me to finish and enjoy some time relaxing, but I would miss football too much. For now, this is my life and it has been since I was 11 years old, when I started in football. I'm also interested in my family, in politics and opera, but opera is only a show. Football can give you so much more.

Is it true you took a pay cut to stay on?
Yes, yes. I understand the current economic situation, so I said to the FAI we will take less money, no problem. All that mattered to me was they were satisfied with the job we were doing. We could have said "thank you" and gone home, but we wanted to continue the work we had started and I am happy with the new agreement.

> **I believe Stephen Ireland will regret his decision not to play when he is older**

Do you rule the Irish squad by fear?
This can never work any more. If you go back to 30 years ago, maybe people like Alex Ferguson and myself could rule by fear, but players don't care for this any more. You are looking for respect and that brings discipline, but this does not come by making players scared of you. It is all about knowing how to pull the right strings in a player.

Interview by Kevin Palmer

ARGENTINA

Javier PASTORE

Former Huracan playmaker set to shine in Italy

PALERMO'S £5.9million summer signing came complete with three sobriquets: "*El Flaco*" (the thin one), "the Argentinian Kaka" and "El Cordobes" (in honour of his home city of Cordoba and a famous Spanish matador). So take your pick. Or just settle for prodigious.

The management at the Sicilian outfit had their work cut out acquiring the 20-year-old. As is the norm in South America, the player was jointly owned by agents, an investment group, mother club Talleres de Cordoba and Huracan – who took him from Talleres on loan in 2008 – and it required almost three months of painstaking negotiation and the unravelling of red tape before a five-season deal was finally struck.

Not that Palermo are complaining. In the slim Argentinian they have a midfielder with the potential to be world class, an individual Manchester United were once keen on and who has prompted high praise from such big hitters of the coaching world as the former Milan and Italy boss Arrigo Sacchi and current Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti.

In brilliant form for Huracan throughout the 2009 Argentinian closing championship, Pastore was rarely anything less than sensational. Blessed with a touch so delicate as to be crystalline, he also possesses elegance, invention, goals and free-kick wizardry. No question about it: take him out of that Huracan side and they would never have finished the campaign in an excellent second place behind Velez Sarsfield.

Quick without being lightning fast, he does, however, need to put on a few pounds if he is not to be outmuscled by Serie A opponents scenting blood.

"It did not take me long to discover what makes Italian football different to that in Argentina," says Pastore. "In Serie A the emphasis is on the tactical organisation and the physical; back home what counts is technique.

"I realise I have to be more robust and I will see to that. All I can ask for is the necessary time to adapt to a new league and to a new way of life. It's never easy to change country and continent."

It's just a shame that the youngster has yet to convince ever-controversial Argentina coach Diego Maradona to select him for a national team that could use an injection of his patented creative cure-all.

Some claim Maradona thinks Pastore is too inexperienced; others believe he is paying the price for Huracan's decision not to allow him to travel to Venezuela earlier this year for the South American Under-20 championship.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Palermo (Ita)
Country Argentina
Born June 20, 1989, in Cordoba
Previous clubs Talleres de Cordoba, Huracan (loan)

Matias DE FEDERICO

Import has an important season ahead

THE NUMBER of Argentinians in Brazil's top flight now exceeds double figures and includes several established names who ran into problems in Europe. However, by way of contrast, the latest intriguing addition is a young man on the way up.

"The New Messi" might be an unfair label, but De Federico's form for Huracan earlier this year offered enough to hint that the comparison might not be entirely ridiculous. A little gnat-like, left-footed figure, he jinked his way through defence after defence as Huracan came agonizingly close to winning their first championship since 1973. It was, however, too good to last.

Strike partner Javier Pastore (see left) crossed the Atlantic for Palermo, while De Federico was controversially lured north – Huracan president Carlos Babington even complaining that his player had been "kidnapped" – by Corinthians of Sao Paulo.

Of his first impressions, De Federico says: "The marking is tighter in Argentina. There's more space on the pitch in Brazil." And it didn't take him long to become aware of another cultural difference. When asked: "Do you believe in God?" by sports daily *Lance!*, he replied: "Not much."

But it is surely only a matter of time before he believes in the force of "the Faithful", as Corinthians fans are known. Compared to Huracan, Corinthians are a much more high-pressure activity and next year all of it will be focused on winning the Libertadores in the club's centenary year. The little Argentinian will not want to come up short.

Tim Vickery

FACT FILE

Club Corinthians (Bra)
Country Argentina
Born August 23, 1989, in Buenos Aires
Previous club Huracan
International debut May 2009 v Panama
International caps 1 (1 goal)

ARGENTINA

SLOVAKIA

Vladimir WEISS

Man City winger on the World Cup glory trail

NORTHERN IRELAND defender Jonny Evans must have nightmares about the Slovak right-winger who turned him inside out in a recent World Cup qualifier in Belfast as the visitors won 2-0 to keep themselves on course for South Africa.

The 19-year-old's pace and trickery would have had an experienced full-back running for cover, let alone Evans, who is more at home at the heart of a back four.

The son of the Slovakia boss (who is also called Vladimir Weiss), young Vlad received his first full international call-up in August for a friendly with Iceland – and as soon as news of his induction broke, the critics were accusing his father of nepotism.

No one is complaining now, though, as Weiss Jnr proved a revelation in World Cup ties at home to the Czech Republic and in Northern Ireland.

The star turn of the Manchester City side which claimed the 2009 FA Youth Cup – he scored a free-kick in the Final against Chelsea – Weiss, like all mavericks, can frustrate a coach. Tracking back is obviously not a strong point and he can hold onto the ball too long.

It remains to be seen whether his long-term future is at Eastlands, where Shaun Wright-Phillips occupies the right flank and Craig Bellamy can also play wide. A loan deal may be the best solution.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Manchester City (Eng)
Country Slovakia
Born November 30, 1989, in Bratislava
Previous club Inter Bratislava
International debut August 2009 v Iceland
International caps 3 (0 goals)

GERMANY

Thomas Muller

Bayern sensation making waves in Munich

THREE TO FOUR decades after striker supreme Gerd Muller ruled the Bayern Munich goalscoring roost, fans in southern Bavaria are enjoying Muller time once again, this time raising their glasses to academy graduate Thomas Muller, an attacking all-rounder who has been busy catching the eye in the early part of this season.

Undeniably the 20-year-old has benefitted from favourable circumstances these past few months: the unshakeable faith in youth of new Bayern coach Louis Van Gaal and injuries to Franck Ribery and Luca Toni, not to mention the patchy form of Miroslav Klose and multimillion summer signing Mario Gomez. But the newcomer still had to make the most of the first-team opportunities handed to him.

Whether starting or appearing from the bench, and whatever the role – right side of midfield, right-winger, second striker or as a no10 – Muller has looked a class act, technically accomplished, direct and single-minded, a fine crosser and striker of the ball who somehow combines clear-headedness with relentless activity.

The Germany Under-21 also excels in another area: goals. His right foot has been a deadly weapon since childhood – he once netted 120 goals in a season for junior club TSV Pahl – and so it proved in September when he hit back-to-back doubles in Bayern's 5-1 romp at Dortmund in the Bundesliga and the 3-0 Champions League victory away to Maccabi Haifa.

The word is out: give him room to get off a shot – a blast aimed at the top corner or a low flat drive with little back lift – and you are in trouble.

"Muller is a player who will always score goals. Always. Even when he's not playing well," says Bayern assistant coach Hermann Gerland, a long-time youth coach at the club. "I think he's got what it takes. He has a lot of God-given talent, has great ball-playing qualities, knows where the goal is and is a real ball of energy.

"As long as he keeps his feet on the ground and remains keen to learn, he will be fine."

From the Ammersee lake region, to the north of Munich, Muller is very much flavour of the month in the German media and bearing in mind his talent, club and surname, it would be a minor miracle if he was not in the spotlight. However, his employers know only too well that they must handle him with care. Only two youth products have gone on to establish themselves in the Bayern first team in recent years: Bastian Schweinsteiger and Philipp Lahm.

Current back-up keeper Michael Rensing definitely belongs in the "too much, too soon" brigade. So does Toni Kroos, the highly gifted midfielder who has gone on loan to Leverkusen again this season, while midfielders Zvjezdan Misimovic and Piotr Trochowski both had to move on to make a name for themselves (the former ending up at champions Wolfsburg via Bochum and Nurnberg, the second heading for Hamburg).

The Bayern management do not need reminding they have a royal flush in Muller, yet they are clearly at pains to be guarded about their hand.

"I don't want to hear this rubbish," roared general manager Uli Hoeness on being asked how far Thomas could go. "In Germany we tend to go over the top when someone scores a couple of goals. At his age I was in the national team. I don't think it's a good idea to praise him excessively.

"We have already been there with Michael Rensing and Toni Kroos. And where are they now?"

Harsh. But probably fair.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Bayern Munich
Country Germany
Born September 13, 1989, in Munich

BARCELONA

FIVE TO FOLLOW: BARCA STARLETS

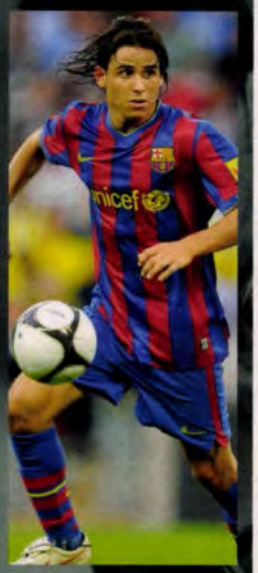
The most promising products from La Masia academy

Born April 9, 1991
Position Midfielder

GAI Assulin

BRILLIANT Israeli prospect who prefers a central, attacking midfield brief, but has no problem turning his hand to wing play, particularly on the left. Now 18, he has been on Barca's books for six years and was just 16 when he made his senior debut in a Catalan Cup tie with Girona in 2007.

Already capped at senior level, he caused a furore back home in the summer by refusing to play for the Under-21s. Not the done thing.



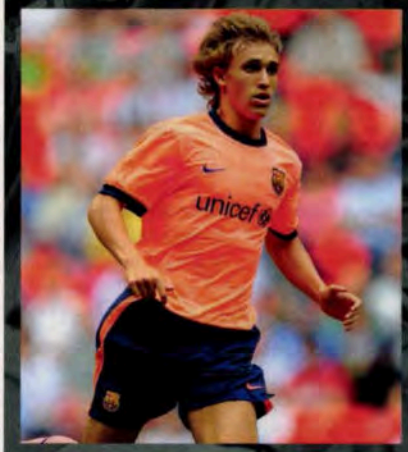
Born November 14, 1989
Position Defender

Andreu FONTAS

HOME-GROWN centre-back hoping to follow in the footsteps of another true Catalan, current first-team mainstay Gerard Pique.

After making his name locally with Banyoles and Girona, he joined Barca in 2007, performing so solidly for Barcelona B last season that he was promoted to the first-team squad for the current campaign. Aged 19, powerful of build, strong in the air and excellent in his application. A little clumsy at times, but always effective.

Born March 27, 1992
Position Defender



Marc MUNIESA

ATHLETIC and gritty 17-year-old central defender or left-back who is considered the heir apparent to club standard bearer and skipper Carles Puyol.

From the Costa Brava resort of Lloret de Mar, the La Masia graduate made his first-team debut as a substitute against Osasuna last May, only to be quickly sent off for a "last man" challenge. A few days later, he found himself on the bench for the Champions League Final.

Born July 28, 1987
Position Forward

PEDRO Rodriguez

THE 22-year-old from the Canary Islands came off the bench to score the winning goal in the European Super Cup win over Shakhtar Donetsk in Monte Carlo and these days he is enjoying increasing amounts of playing time on the right side of attack or through the middle.

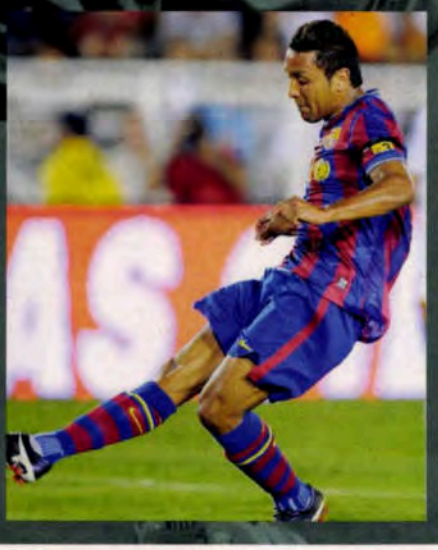
Also on target in the 2009 Spanish Super Cup win over Athletic Bilbao and Barca's recent 2-0 Champions League win over Dinamo Kyiv, he is, in many ways, a typical attacking-third product of La Masia: small, versatile, on intimate terms with the ball and extremely quick-witted.

Born January 20, 1988
Position Midfielder

JEFFREN Suarez

FOR some time now, this clever, intuitive 21-year-old left-winger has been tipped for greatness and the signs are that he is on the verge of making the transition from much-hyped hopeful into true first-team contributor.

Born in Venezuela, he and his family migrated to the Canary Islands before he was on solid food and, after showing promise at Tenerife, he joined Barca in 2004. An important member of the Spain Under-19 side which won the 2006 European title.



Derby days

The Argentinian capital has a greater concentration of football clubs than any other city in the world, writes Peterjon Cresswell

HOME TO ONE of the game's fiercest derbies, and the capital with more titled top-flight teams than any other, Buenos Aires is a football metropolis par excellence.

Headed by Boca Juniors and River Plate, the big clubs in the Argentinian capital boast significant fan bases, long and proud histories, and fill half the slots in the Primera Division – which means there are often three derby games on a weekend for the neutral to choose from.

Neutrals are, however, very few and far between in this city. As the locals say, "you can't change your mother or your football team" – particularly where working-class Boca and the *Millonarios* of River are concerned.

The game arrived in Argentina in the early 1900s, with Boca and River both starting out in the port district of Boca at almost the same time. Both clubs get their names from the docks – River Plate from the name painted on the packing crates, Boca from the district itself – and Boca's distinctive yellow and blue colours were even taken from the national flag of a passing Swedish ship.

Independiente and Racing Club were also founded in the early 1900s, and the Avellaneda derby between these two clubs, with their grounds barely 200 yards apart, is second only to the *Superclasico* between Boca and River. Huracan and San Lorenzo compete in the *clasico del Barrio*.

The 'Five Greats'

With the arrival of professionalism, the "Five Greats" (which excludes Huracan from those mentioned above) won every single league title between them until the restructuring of the league in 1967, and few other national competitions have been able to boast such past talents as Alfredo Di Stefano and River's *La Maquina* forward line of Munoz, Moreno, Pedernera, Labruna and Loustau. It has been said that if there had been a World Cup in 1942 or 1946, Argentina would have walked it.

By the 1940s the various club rivalries had been well and truly established. But with the introduction of the Libertadores Cup in the 1960s, and the huge fees being offered for the club's best players from major Italian and Spanish clubs, success was becoming far too precious a commodity to be gained by playing beautiful football.

Independiente, followed by a notorious Racing side, won the South American crown as gamesmanship and foul play became commonplace. Incidents on the terraces also became increasingly violent, a trend that led to the organised *barras bravas* and the formation of hooligan gangs such as River's *Borrachos del Tablon*, Boca's *La 12* and Independiente's *Diablos Rojos*. The political backdrop was equally grim, with the military dictatorship eliminating dissidents and clearing the way for the 1978 World Cup that Argentina would win at River's Monumental home.

There have been some epic *Superclasicos* over the years, with River's last-minute

Superclasico...Boca (blue) versus River Plate

Avellaneda derby...Independiente (red) against Racing

Life's a box of chocolates...Boca's Bombonera stadium gets its name from the shape created by the one flat and three steep stands which surround the pitch

title-winning 2-1 comeback of 1977 and Boca's 5-1 win at Monumental in 1982 among the most memorable. These games have also involved some of the biggest names in the world game, including Diego Maradona, a product of Argentinos Juniors, who played for two years at his beloved Boca, and Daniel Passarella, who captained a River side that would later be spearheaded by Uruguay forward Enzo Francescoli.

Meanwhile, an all-conquering Independiente featured the attacking duo of Ricardo Bochini and Daniel Bertoni, and Velez Sarsfield – who used to play in the fourth big derby, *el Clasico del Oeste*, with Ferro Carril Oeste (now in the second division) – came to the fore with coach Carlos Bianchi leading them to domestic and international silverware.

With a further restructuring of the league in 1992, River and Boca began to dominate as clubs struggled with huge debts, and Racing almost went bankrupt in 1999 before bouncing back to win the 2001 opening championship. However, suburban rivals Lanus and Tigre have also had their moments and Lanus came from nowhere to win the opening championship in 2007. ●

THE STADIUMS

1 ESTADIO LANUS
Also known as "*La Fortaleza*" (the fortress), Lanus' home ground holds 46,600 fans and was built in 1929.

2 ESTADIO JUAN DOMINGO PERON
Also known as "*El Cilindro de Avellaneda*" (Avellaneda's cylinder) or "*El Coliseo*" (the coliseum), the ground was opened in 1950, can hold 64,161 and is home to Racing Club.

3 ESTADIO PEDRO BIDEGAIN
Homeless for 14 years after leaving their Gasometro stadium, San Lorenzo's new ground was opened in 1993 and has a 43,494 capacity.

4 ESTADIO MONUMENTAL DE VICTORIA
Tigre's home ground holds 30,000 people and was built in 1936.

5 ESTADIO JOSE AMALFITANI
Home of Velez Sarsfield and known as "*El Fortin*" (the fort), it was built in 1947, remodelled for the 1978 World Cup and has a 49,500 capacity.

6 EL MONUMENTAL
River Plate's home stadium holds 65,645. It was opened in 1938, renovated for the 1978 World Cup and is considered the national stadium.

7 ESTADIO DIEGO ARMANDO MARADONA
Argentinos Juniors' home was opened in December 2003 and has a capacity of 24,800.

BUENOS AIRES SURVIVAL GUIDE

The Paris of South America

● ARRIVAL & TRANSPORT

The main airport Ezeiza, also known as Ministro Pistarini, is 22 miles from the city centre. Taxis charge a set fare of AR$100 (£16.50) for the hour-long journey if you prepay at the desk in Arrivals. Manuel Tienda Leon run a shuttle bus (AR$40 or £6.50) to Avenida Eduardo Madero. The colectivo city bus No8 takes two hours but only costs AR$2 (32p). Colectivo buses are the backbone of the city's transport network, with fares just over AR$1 (16p). Tickets on the seven-line underground are similarly priced. Taxis are generally cheap, reliable and easily flagged down.

● HOTELS & INFORMATION

The tourist office (0800 999 2838/www.bue.gov.ar) has info points around the city. My BA Hotel (Zabala 1925, +54 11 4787 5765, www.mybahotel.com, £100) is in shooting distance of El Monumental, while the more moderate Casa Bolivar (Finochietto 524, San Telmo, +54 11 4300 3619, www.casabolivar.com, £50) is within easy reach of Boca. For central digs, the Gran Hotel Hispano (Avenida de Mayo 861, +54 11 4345 2020, www.hhispano.com.ar, £35) is a cheaper option.

● EATING & DRINKING

For thick, sizzling steaks try Don Carlos (Brandsen 699, +54 11 4362 2433), five minutes from Boca's Bombonera. El Pobre Luis (Arribenos 2393, +54 11 4780 5847) is a footballers' favourite. Of the many bars to catch a game, try Casa Bar (Rodriguez Pena 1150, +54 11 4816 2712) in Recoleta.

● DAYTIME ENTERTAINMENT

La Bombonera has a two-floor club museum which is the best in the country. Ground tours are also given.

● MATCH DAY

For tickets, try Ticketek (5237 7200, www.ticketek.com.ar). A comfortable seat in the platea (around £8) may be a safer bet than a spot on the terraces (£5).

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

● Estadio Diego Armando Maradona
Nov 14 Argentinos Juniors v Arsenal
Nov 28 Argentinos Juniors v San Lorenzo

● Estadio Julio H Grondona
Nov 7 Arsenal v Boca
Nov 21 Arsenal v Lanus

● Estadio Florencio Sola
Nov 7 Banfield v Velez Sarsfield
Nov 21 Banfield v Racing

● La Bombonera
Nov 14 Boca v Gimnasia
Nov 28 Boca v Independiente

● Venue yet to be confirmed*
Nov 7 Chacarita Juniors v Newell's Old Boys
Nov 21 Chacarita Juniors v Godoy Cruz

● Estadio Tomas Adolfo Duco
Nov 14 Huracan v San Lorenzo
Nov 28 Huracan v Banfield

● Estadio Libertadores de America
Nov 14 Independiente v Banfield
Nov 21 Independiente v Huracan

● Estadio Lanus
Nov 14 Lanus v Colon
Nov 28 Lanus v Gimnasia

● Estadio Juan Domingo Peron
Nov 7 Racing v Estudiantes
Nov 28 Racing v Tigre

● El Monumental
Nov 7 River Plate v Atletico Tucuman
Nov 21 River Plate v Estudiantes

● Estadio Pedro Bidegain
Nov 7 San Lorenzo v Independiente
Nov 21 San Lorenzo v Boca

● Estadio Monumental de Victoria
Nov 7 Tigre v Godoy Cruz
Nov 21 Tigre v Velez Sarsfield

● Estadio Jose Amalfitani
Nov 14 Velez Sarsfield v Racing
Nov 28 Velez Sarsfield v River Plate

** Chacarita Juniors' stadium still under construction*

8 ESTADIO FLORENCIO SOLA
Nicknamed "*Lencho*" and home to Banfield, the stadium has a capacity of 49,500 and celebrates its centenary next year.

9 ESTADIO CHACARITA JUNIORS
Until this rebuilt stadium reopens next year, Chacarita Juniors are playing home games at various grounds in Buenos Aires.

10 ESTADIO TOMAS ADOLFO DUCO
Home to Huracan and built in 1949 with the support of the Argentinian Army, it has a capacity of 48,000.

11 LA BOMBONERA
Boca Juniors' 57,400-capacity ground (which means "the chocolate box") gets its name from its shape. Opened in 1940.

12 ESTADIO LIBERTADORES DE AMERICA
Independiente's home – which has a capacity of 52,823 – will look like this when it's redeveloped.

13 ESTADIO JULIO H GRONDONA
The home of Arsenal holds 16,000 people and is named after one of the club's founders, who was inspired by the English team of the same name.

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Nike Tiempo Mystic III
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Firm Ground - PDS 002 009 B02
£49.99
Sizes 6 - 13 inc ½'s
HERITAGE

Nike Tiempo Natural III
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Ian L, email

"... £460 returned..."
'8 out of 10 winners was a great result - and returned £300. I also backed your tips in a range of multiples, and returned £160.'
Andrew H, email

"...a lovely profit of £5,500..."
'Hi, I had A VERY profitable weekend thanks to your tips - all 8 came in giving me a lovely profit of over £5,500.00!'
Robin B, email

"...perfect ten..."
'Many thanks for your 'perfect ten' this weekend. Great service - your expertise has brought me win after win.'
Dave C, email

"...£145 return... superb start to the season..."
'just a note to give feedback to your goodselves, my first bet brought me a £145 return for a £25 stake - a superb start to the season.
many thanks'
Tony N, email

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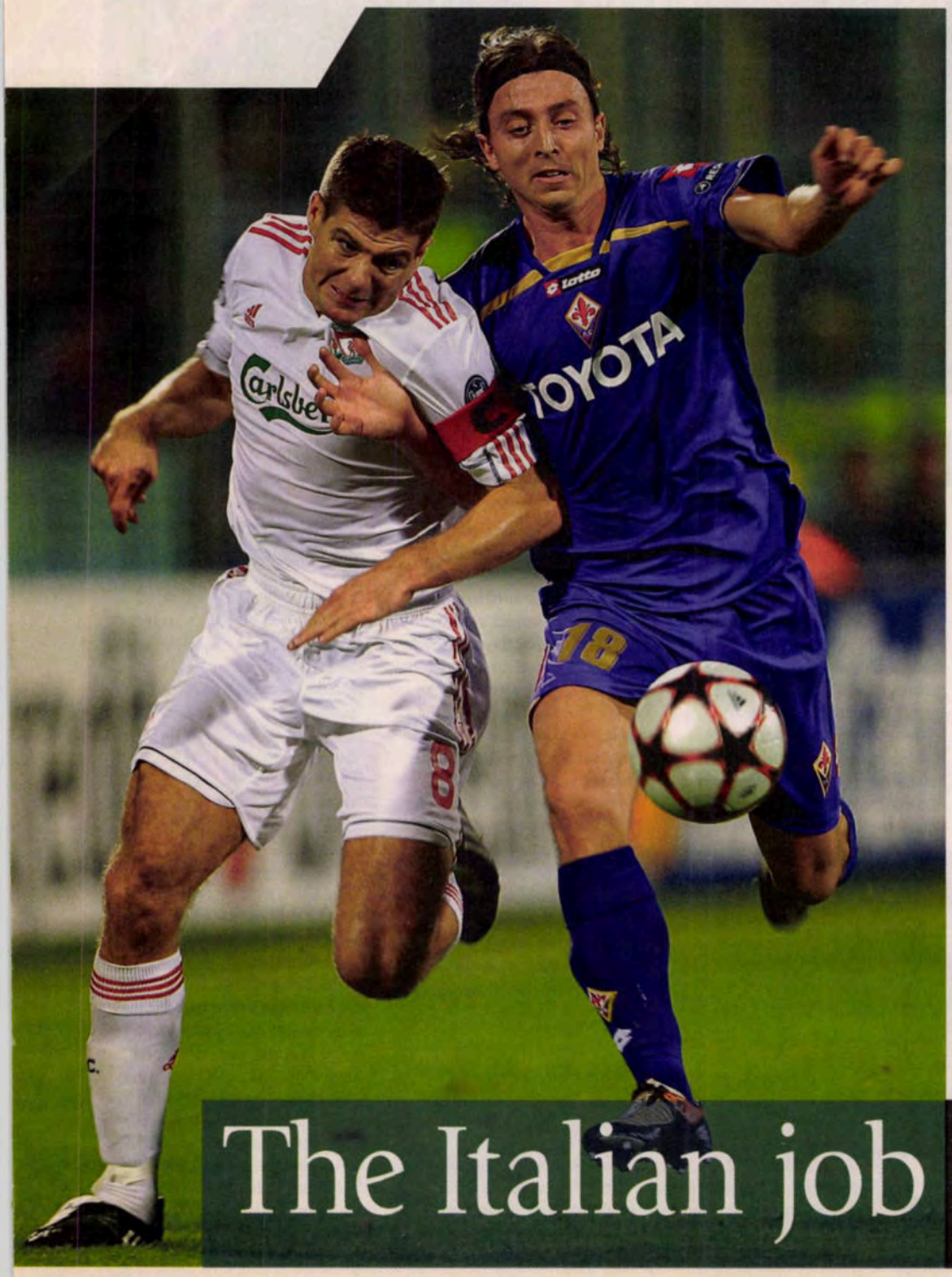

The Italian job

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard (left) battles with Riccardo Montolivo of Fiorentina in their Champions League Group E clash in Florence. Two goals from Stevan Jovetic won the game for the Italian side. More information and tables, page 87.

DIGEST

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CLUB RESULTS

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SQUADS

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Successful defence...it's celebrations all round once again for champions FH

ICELAND FH make it five out of six

HAFNARFJORDUR side FH booked their place in the second qualifying round of the 2010-11 Champions League after claiming their fifth league title in six years.

Having served clear notice of intent in pre-season by winning the League Cup and Super Cup, FH began the defence of their title with a 1-0 defeat at Keflavik. Shrugging off this early setback, they then embarked on a 15-match unbeaten run that saw them establish a seemingly unassailable 13-point lead over KR by early August – until a 4-2 home defeat by their Reykjavik rivals signalled a series of shaky results that saw that lead reduced to five points by September.

Coach Heimir Gudjonsson rallied his troops, however, and secured the championship with a game to spare, confirming his position as one of the country's brightest young coaches.

KR and Fylkir will compete in the first qualifying round of the 2010-11 Europa League, along with Breidablik who won the Icelandic Cup for the first time by beating Fram on penalties after they drew 2-2 following extra time.

At the other end of the table, Throttur's 60th anniversary celebrations were marred by relegation after only two years back in the top flight, further sealing their unenviable reputation as Iceland's most-relegated club, having gone down no less than 11 times. They were joined by capital neighbours Fjolnir, whose first spell among the country's elite ended after a mere two seasons.

Replacing them are Hafnarfjordur outfit Haukur, who are back after an absence of 32 years, and southern side Selfoss, who will compete in the top flight for the first time. However, they will do so without Gunnlaugur Jonsson, who has agreed to coach Valur.

While all major issues in the league had been settled by the final day, the quest for the Golden Boot ended in high drama. Having led the race for much of the season, FH midfielder Atli Vidar Bjornsson saw the prize snatched from his grasp by KR striker Bjorgolfur Hideaki Takefusa, whose remarkable five-goal haul in his side's 5-2 win over Valur on the last day of the season saw him claim the title with a tally of 16 strikes in 19 matches.

Rab Christie

URVALSDEILD – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FH	22	16	3	3	57	21	51
KR	22	15	3	4	58	31	48
Fylkir	22	13	4	5	41	26	43
Fram	22	10	4	8	40	32	34
Breidablik	22	10	4	8	38	33	34
Keflavik	22	8	9	5	38	37	33
Stjarnan	22	7	5	10	45	44	26
Valur	22	7	4	11	26	43	25
Grindavik	22	6	4	12	34	44	22
IBV	22	6	4	12	24	45	22
Throttur	22	4	4	14	23	48	16
Fjolnir	22	3	6	13	27	47	15

Top coach...Gudjonsson

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
ATLI GUDNASON (FH)
Arguably the most creative player in Iceland this year, the attacking midfielder played a key role in well over half of his team's goals, while bagging 10 in 20 matches for himself.

COACH OF THE SEASON
HEIMIR GUDJONSSON (FH)
Became the first coach in Iceland to win successive league championships in his first two seasons in charge.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
INGOLFUR SIGURDSSON (KR) Although limited to a few cameo first-team appearances this summer, the 16-year-old forward looks like one of the hottest prospects Iceland has produced in many, many years.

ASIA Scolari's Bunyodkor fall short

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

BUNYODKOR may have made Luiz Felipe Scolari the highest-paid coach in world football, but the Uzbek club will have to wait at least another year before wrapping their hands around the Asian Champions League trophy.

The Brazilian, who is reportedly earning somewhere in the region of £8million a year at the Tashkent-based club, was incapable of building on the club's semi-final appearance in last year's competition as his side crashed out of the tournament at the hands of South Korea club Pohang Steelers.

The former Asian champions handed Scolari's team a 4-1 extra-time defeat in the second leg in South Korea to overturn a two-goal deficit from the first leg and record a 5-4 aggregate win. Stevica Ristic scored the decisive goal with a header.

"Our team made mistakes and Pohang was able to capitalise on them and they came out winners," said Scolari.

"You have to give them credit for the heart and desire they showed. They were the better team and we will have to come away and learn from this."

Pohang, who won the now defunct Asian Club Championship in 1998 and 1999, will take on Qatar's Umm Salal following their triumph over another Korean side, FC Seoul.

The Qatari club, the surprise package of this year's competition, led 3-2 after the first leg in Doha and a goal from Aziz Ben Askar in the 14th minute further extended their advantage in the return fixture in Seoul.

And though Dejan Damjanovic equalised soon after, Senol Gunes' players were incapable of scoring again and Umm Salal progressed.

Knocked off their stride...Bunyodkor's Joao Victor (left) loses out to Pohang's Shin Hyung-min

"The defeat to Umm Salal is bound to have a negative impact but we will continue with the league and do our best to win," said Gunes. "We will try our best to compensate in the future for our lack of experience."

Umm Salal's French coach Gerard Gili takes his club into the semi-finals of the competition for the first time and is upbeat about their chances of progressing to the final at Pohang's expense.

"We are the smallest club left in the Champions League and I think we can be a role model for others," he said. "Even though we are not a big team, we can get big results.

"We already have a good memory in Korea and will now focus on getting ready to do the same again in the semi-final."

Meanwhile, two-time champions Al Ittihad moved ominously into the semi-finals after handing Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor a 4-0 thrashing in Jeddah in the second leg of their quarter-final.

The win gave the Saudi champions a 5-1 aggregate victory to set up a last-four showdown with Dragan Stojkovic's Nagoya Grampus after they overcame fellow J.League side Kawasaki Frontale.

Grampus progressed thanks to a late goal from Australia striker Josh Kennedy, which earned the Toyota-backed club a 3-1 win in the second leg and a 4-3 aggregate victory as the Japanese look to maintain their dominance of the competition in recent years.

"We played good football and controlled most of the game tactically and technically," said Stojkovic. "We are very proud of this result and this qualification for the best four in Asia."

Grampus are the sole remaining Japanese club in the competition and, with the Final due to be played in Tokyo in early November, the pressure will be on Stojkovic and his side to emulate the achievements of Urawa Reds in 2007 and Gamba Osaka last year and become continental champions.

"They were the better team and we will have to come away and learn from this"

Luiz Felipe Scolari on Bunyodkor's defeat to Pohang

Al Ittihad coach Gabriel Calderon is under no illusions regarding the difficulty of the task facing his side – who won the second leg of their last-eight encounter thanks to goals from Sultan Al Nemri, Amine Chermiti, Hicham Aboucherouane and captain Mohammed Noor – but he is confident a third ACL title is realistic.

"Our next match in the semi-finals will not be easy," he said. "We need to travel to Japan and we will face a strong team but, since we accept no excuses, I think we will qualify to the final."

Michael Church

Riding high...Gili and his Umm Salal players celebrate

PEOPLE in the news

Struggling Hertha sack Favre

Saying goodbye...Favre

EUROPE

Struggling German side Hertha Berlin sacked Swiss coach LUCIEN FAVRE after a 5-1 loss to Hoffenheim – their sixth defeat in the opening seven Bundesliga matches. Hertha turned to former Duisburg, Koln and Eintracht Frankfurt boss FRIEDELM FUNKEL as his replacement.

Turkey coach FATIH TERIM quit after his failure to lead the national side through qualification to the World Cup finals.

Not qualified...Terim

AVRAM GRANT made a surprise return to Portsmouth as director of football following the sale of the Premier League club to ALI AL FARAJ. Grant has not worked since leaving Chelsea in summer 2008.

Former international defender SOL CAMPBELL quit English fourth-tier side Notts County after just one appearance.

Following a positive run of results, OLAFUR JOHANNESSON has had his contract to coach Iceland extended by two years, until the end of 2011.

Barcelona coach PEP GUARDIOLA was finally cleared in a long-running doping saga. He served a four-month ban for failing tests for nandrolone while a Brescia player in 2001, but the Italian FA finally upheld his appeal in May. The country's anti-doping prosecutor challenged that decision but a tribunal then ruled in Guardiola's favour.

After dabbling in politics and being elected as a senator in his homeland in 2003, MARC WILMOTS, who won 70 caps for Belgium, was appointed assistant coach to national boss DICK ADVOCAAT.

Former Latvia defender MIHAILS ZEMLINSKIS took charge of the Under-21 side, replacing GENADIJS SITIKS who died of a heart attack.

One-time Juventus captain ANTONIO CONTE replaced ANGELO GREGUCCI as coach of Atalanta after the Italian club lost their first four Serie A matches.

New position...Conte

Italian coach GIOVANNI TRAPATTONI will remain as Republic of Ireland manager for another two years. The 70-year-old, whose existing contract was due to expire in the summer, agreed an extension to his current deal which will take him through to 2012.

ROLAND COURBIS, the former coach of Marseille, was jailed for two years for his part in the financial irregularities at the French club from 1997 to 1999. He was arrested as he was about to commentate on Marseille v Montpellier for French radio.

Ex-Livingston manager PAUL HEGARTY is to join the Scotland coaching set-up. The former Dundee United defender won eight caps for his country.

Italian coach DARIO BONETTI parted company with Dinamo Bucharest having spent just three months in charge of the Romanian club.

Belgium goalkeeper STIJN STIJNEN of Club Brugge, who won 30 caps, announced his retirement from international football.

AMERICAS

River Plate's 35-year-old forward ARIEL ORTEGA was named in Argentina's squad for the friendly against Ghana but missed out on the chance to win his first cap for six years after pulling a leg muscle in his club's 2-2 draw at home to Gimnasia-La Plata.

Ruled out...Ortega

Former Brazil, PSV Eindhoven and Barcelona striker ROMARIO is to run for parliament in an attempt to pay off debts and looming fraud charges. The 1994 World Cup winner, who scored 70 goals in 80 games for his country, is to join the socialist party and stand in the 2010 federal elections.

Scottish move...Zheng

Atletico Huila's teenage striker HERMAN CORDOBA and midfielder MARIO BELTRAN, 23, were killed in a traffic accident after going out to celebrate the Colombian club's 2-1 win over Deportivo Pereira.

AFRICA

CS Sfaxien of Tunisia sacked EZZEDINE AIT DJOUDI following poor results and appointed Belgian coach LUCA PERUZOVIC in his place.

ASIA

Former England captain BRYAN ROBSON agreed a four-year deal to become the new national coach of Thailand. The 52-year-old replaced PETER REID, who joined Stoke City.

China captain ZHENG ZHI joined Scottish club Celtic after being released by English third-tier club Charlton Athletic.

Next season's A-League newcomers Melbourne Heart have announced former Holland winger JOHN VAN'T SCHIP as head coach for their inaugural campaign.

FRANCE

Bordeaux and Lyon top their groups

A late goal from central defender Michael Ciani earned Bordeaux a 1-0 win at home to Maccabi Haifa in the Champions League.

However, playmaker Yoann Gourcuff was replaced at half-time after suffering a thigh injury and Bordeaux coach Laurent Blanc revealed: "He will take some time off. It will do him good."

Meanwhile, Lyon's injury-ravaged squad managed a comfortable 4-0 win away to Hungary's Debrecen to maintain their unbeaten start to the season.

Kim Kallstrom, Miralem Pjanic, Sidney Govou and Bafetimbi Gomis were all on target as the hosts made a forgettable home debut in Europe's premier competition.

GERMANY

Robben to sit it out

Arjen Robben will miss Bayern Munich's next two Champions League games after limping out of the 0-0 draw against Juventus with an injury to his right knee.

SPAIN

Record-breaker Raul

Raul set a new Real Madrid appearance record, making his 709th first-team appearance when he appeared as a second-half substitute against Marseille in the Champions League.

By playing in Real's 3-0 victory, midfielder Guti became the seventh Spanish player to have made 100 appearances in European competition.

Real's goalkeeper Iker Casillas, who has played 99 times, is all set to become the eighth.

Real stalwart...Raul

RESULTS

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 15
Juventus (Ita) 1 (Iaquinta 63)
Bordeaux (Fra) 1 (Plasil 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,513. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
Juventus: Buffon - Caceres, Legrottaglie, Cannavaro (Zebina 66), Grosso, Marchisio, Felipe Melo, Tiago (Poulsen 81), Giovinco (Camoranesi 73), Amauri, Iaquinta.
Bordeaux: Carrasso (Rame 55) - Chalme, Ciani, Planus, Tremoulinas, Fernando, Diarra, Plasil (Gouffran 77), Gourcuff, Wendel, Chamakh.

Sep 15
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 0
Bayern Munich (Ger) 3 (Van Buyten 64, Muller 85, 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,789. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Maccabi: Davidovich - Meshumar (Rafaelov 73), Keinan, Jorge Teixeira, Masilela, Boccoli, Kayal (Arbeitman 68), Golasa, Ghadir (Osman 68), Katan, Dvalishvili.
Bayern: Butt - Lahm, Van Buyten, Badstuber, Pranjic, Tymoshchuk, Muller, Schweinsteiger, Robben (Ottl 77), Olic (Sosa 86), Ribery (Gomez 64).

Sep 30
Bayern Munich 0
Juventus 0
Att: 66,000. **Ref:** Webb (Eng)
Bayern: Butt - Lahm, Van Buyten, Badstuber, Braafheid, Muller, Ottl, Schweinsteiger, Robben (Olic 44), Ribery, Klose (Gomez 74).
Juventus: Buffon - Grygera, Legrottaglie, Chiellini, Grosso, Felipe Melo, Camoranesi (Tiago 90), Marchisio, Diego (Poulsen 60), Trezeguet (Amauri 74), Iaquinta.

Sep 30
Bordeaux 1 (Ciani 83)
Maccabi Haifa 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,748. **Ref:** Braamhaar (Hol)
Bordeaux: Carrasso - Chalme, Ciani, Planus, Tremoulinas, Diarra, Plasil (Sertic 72), Wendel, Gourcuff (Fernando 46), Cavenaghi (Bellion 60), Chamakh.
Maccabi: Davidovich - Meshumar, Keinan, Jorge Teixeira, Masilela, Ghadir (Rafaelov 67), Culma, Kayal, Golasa (Boccoli 85), Katan, Dvalishvili (Arbeitman 58). *Sent off: Kayal 88min.*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Bordeaux	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Juventus	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Maccabi Haifa	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Group B

Sep 15
Besiktas (Tur) 0
Manchester United (Eng) 1 (Scholes 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 26,448. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Besiktas: Hakan - Ibrahim Kas, Sivok, Ferrari, Ibrahim Uzulmez, Ekrem, Tabata (Tello 69), Ernst, Serdar (Yusuf 59), Nobre, Holosko (Nihat 84).
Man Utd: Foster - Neville, Evans, Vidic, Evra, Valencia (Park 84), Carrick (Berbatov 63), Scholes, Anderson, Nani, Rooney (Owen 63).

Sep 15
Wolfsburg (Ger) 3 (Grafite 36, pen 41, 86)
CSKA Moscow (Rus) 1 (Dzagoev 76)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,017. **Ref:** Lannoy (Fra)
Wolfsburg: Benaglio - Riether, Madlung, Barzagli, Schafer, Josue, Misimovic, Gentner (Hasebe 90), Martins (Ziani 65), Grafite (Santana 89), Dzeko.
CSKA: Akinfeev - Semberas, V Berezutsky (Necid 84), Ignashevich, A Berezutsky, Rahimic, Aldonin (Mamaev 68), Krasic, Schennikov (Piliev 57), Dzagoev, Guilherme.

Sep 30
CSKA Moscow 2 (Dzagoev 7, Krasic 61)
Besiktas 1 (Ekrem 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 19,750. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
CSKA: Akinfeev - Semberas, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, A Berezutsky (Grigoryev 46), Mamaev, Odiah, Krasic, Gonzalez (Schennikov 78), Dzagoev, Necid (Rahimic 64).
Besiktas: Rustu - Ibrahim Kas, Sivok, Ferrari, Ismail, Ernst, Ekrem, Nobre, Tello (Bobo 75), Holosko (Yusuf 34), Nihat (Serdar 73).

Sep 30
Manchester United 2 (Giggs 59, Carrick 78)
Wolfsburg 1 (Dzeko 56)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 74,037. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Man Utd: Kuszczak - O'Shea, Ferdinand, Vidic, Evra, Carrick, Anderson, Valencia (Fletcher 82), Giggs, Owen (Berbatov 20), Rooney.
Wolfsburg: Benaglio - Riether, Ricardo Costa, Madlung, Schafer, Josue, Hasebe (Ziani 73), Gentner, Misimovic, Grafite (Martins 83), Dzeko.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Wolfsburg	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
CSKA Moscow	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Besiktas	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Group C

Sep 15
Marseille (Fra) 1 (Heinze 49)
Milan (Ita) 2 (Inzaghi 28, 74)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 55,434. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
Marseille: Mandanda - Kabore, Diawara, Heinze, Taiwo, Cisse (Morientes 88), Mbia, Gonzalez (Ben Arfa 75), Cheyrou, Niang, Brandao.
Milan: Storari - Oddo, Nesta, Thiago Silva, Zambrotta, Flamini, Pirlo, Seedorf (Abate 90), Ambrosini (Gattuso 58), Alexandre Pato, Inzaghi (Huntelaar 87).

Sep 15
Zurich (Swi) 2 (Margairaz pen 64, Aegerter 65)
Real Madrid (Spa) 5 (Cristiano Ronaldo 27, 89, Raul 34, Higuain 45, Guti 90)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 24,424. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Zurich: Leoni - Stahel (Gajic 88), Tihinen, Rochat, Koch, Aegerter, Okonkwo (Abdi 66), Vonlanthen, Margairaz, Alphonse, Hassli (Djuric 46).
Real Madrid: Casillas - Arbeloa, Pepe, Albiol, Drenthe, L Diarra, Xabi Alonso (Gago 59), Kaka, Cristiano Ronaldo, Higuain (Guti 68), Raul.

Sep 30
Milan 0
Zurich 1 (Tihinen 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,439. **Ref:** Meyer (Ger)
Milan: Storari - Abate, Nesta (Onyewu 60), Kaladze, Jankulovski, Pirlo, Flamini (Zambrotta 46), Ambrosini, Seedorf (Ronaldinho 46), Alexandre Pato, Inzaghi.
Zurich: Leoni - Koch, Barmettler, Tihinen, Rochat (Stahel 80), Okonkwo, Aegerter, Gajic, Margairaz, Vonlanthen (Nikci 76), Djuric (Alphonse 86).

Sep 30
Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 58, 64, Kaka pen 61)
Marseille 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 67,244. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Sergio Ramos (Garay 72), Pepe, Albiol, Marcelo, Xabi Alonso, Gago, Guti, Kaka (Raul 78), Benzema, Cristiano Ronaldo (Higuain 70).
Marseille: Mandanda - Bonnart, Heinze, Diawara, Taiwo, Mbia, Abriel (Rodriguez 62), Cheyrou, Gonzalez, Niang (Ben Arfa 87), Morientes (Brandao 63). *Sent off: Diawara 60min.*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Zurich	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Milan	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Marseille	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Group D

Sep 15
Atletico Madrid (Spa) 0
APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) 0
Att: 30,628. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
Atletico: Asenjo - Perea (Sinama-Pongolle 67), Pablo, Ujfalusi, Dominguez, Jurado, Paulo Assuncao, Cleber Santana (Rodriguez 51), Simao, Forlan, Aguero.
APOEL: Chiotis - Poursaitidis, Paulo Jorge (Grncarov 45), Kontis, Haxhi, Nuno Morais, Michael, Charalambidis (Satsias 67), Helio Pinto, Kosowski, Zewlakow (Jean Paulista 80).

Sep 15
Chelsea (Eng) 1 (Anelka 48)
Porto (Por) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 39,436. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
Chelsea: Cech - Ivanovic, Ricardo Carvalho, Terry, A Cole, Ballack, Essien, Kalou (Belletti 77), Lampard, Malouda, Anelka.
Porto: Helton - Fucile, Rolando, Bruno Alves, Pereira, Guarin, Fernando, Raul Meireles, Gonzalez (Falcao Garcia 54), Rodriguez (Silvestre Varela 64), Hulk. *Sent off: Fernando 90min.*

Sep 30
APOEL Nicosia 0
Chelsea 1 (Anelka 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 21,657. **Ref:** Layec (Fra)
APOEL: Chiotis - Poursaitidis, Grncarov, Kontis, Haxhi, Nuno Morais, Michael (Breska 79), Charalambidis (Jean Paulista 85), Helio Pinto, Alexandrou (Kosowski 58), Mirosavljevic.
Chelsea: Cech - Ivanovic, Ricardo Carvalho, Terry, A Cole, Belletti (Deco 68), Essien, Lampard, Malouda, Anelka, Kalou (J Cole 80).

Sep 30
Porto 2 (Falcao Garcia 77, Rolando 82)
Atletico Madrid 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 37,609. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Porto: Helton - Fucile, Rolando, Bruno Alves, Pereira, Belluschi, Tomas Costa (Guarin 67), Raul Meireles, Gonzalez (Valeri 90), Falcao Garcia (Farias 88), Hulk.
Atletico: Roberto (De Gea 25) - Perea, Pablo, Ujfalusi, Juanito, Jurado (Reyes 79), Paulo Assuncao, Cleber Santana, Simao (Rodriguez 70), Aguero, Forlan.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Porto	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
APOEL	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
At Madrid	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

Group E

Sep 16
Liverpool (Eng) 1 (Kuijt 45)
Debrecen (Hun) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 41,591. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
Liverpool: Reina - Johnson, Skrtel, Carragher, Insua, Benayoun (Mascherano 88), Gerrard, Lucas, Riera (Babel 80), Kuijt (Fabio Aurelio 90), Fernando Torres.
Debrecen: Poleksic - Bodnar, Komlosi, Leandro, Fodor, Ramos (Laczko 67), Kiss, Meszaros, Szakaly (Feczesin 79), Czvitkovics, Coulibaly.

Sep 16
Lyon (Fra) 1 (Pjanic 76)
Fiorentina (Ita) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 37,169. **Ref:** Vink (Hol)
Lyon: Lloris - Reveillere, Cris, Toulalan, Cissokho, Makoun, Kallstrom, Bastos (Govou 26), Pjanic (Ederson 82), Lopez, Gomis (Delgado 70).
Fiorentina: Frey - Comotto, Gamberini, Dainelli, Gobbi, Marchionni (Santana 73), Montolivo, Donadel, Vargas, Mutu (Jovetic 58), Gilardino. *Sent off: Gilardino 45min.*

Sep 29
Debrecen 0
Lyon 4 (Kallstrom 3, Pjanic 13, Govou 24, Gomis 50)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 41,600. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
Debrecen: Poleksic - Bodnar, Komlosi, Fodor, Leandro, Kiss, Szakaly (Dombi 86), Czvitkovics, Varga, Laczko (Rudolf 46), Coulibaly.
Lyon: Lloris - Reveillere, Cris, Toulalan, Cissokho (Kolodziejczak 78), Clerc, Makoun, Kallstrom, Pjanic (Gonalons 57), Gomis (Ederson 54), Govou.

Sep 29
Fiorentina 2 (Jovetic 28, 37)
Liverpool 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 33,426. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Fiorentina: Frey - Comotto, Gamberini, Dainelli, Gobbi, Zanetti, Montolivo, Marchionni (De Silvestri 90), Jovetic, Vargas (Jorgensen 75), Mutu (Donadel 83).
Liverpool: Reina - Johnson, Carragher, Skrtel, Insua (Babel 72), Lucas, Fabio Aurelio, Kuijt (Voronin 80), Gerrard, Benayoun, Fernando Torres.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Fiorentina	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Liverpool	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Debrecen	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

SWITZERLAND

Zurich surprise Milan

Zurich pulled off the shock of the Champions League so far with their win away to Milan.

Despite having lost three of their previous four games – including a 5-2 drubbing by Real Madrid – and striker Eric Hassli suffering a broken leg four days before the trip to Italy, they won with a goal from captain Hannu Tihinen.

Tribute...Cahill

ENGLAND

Cahill pays tribute to those killed in Samoa

Everton's Tim Cahill dedicated his winning goal in his side's 2-1 Europa League victory away against BATE Borisov to the victims of the tsunami which devastated Samoa.

Australia international Cahill – who was born in Sydney to a Samoan mother and represented Western Samoa at under-20 level as a 14-year-old – said: "The celebration was a little bit of a tribute. There are a lot of people going through a hard time at the moment, not just in Samoa but in Asia.

"I just felt in my heart it was the right thing to do."

PORTUGAL

Revenge for Sporting

Sporting Lisbon ended their European hoodoo against German clubs with a 1-0 win against struggling Hertha Berlin in the Europa League.

Sporting, who were thrashed 12-1 on aggregate by Bayern Munich in the first knockout round of the Champions League last season, beat Hertha with a first-half goal from Adrien Silva, who was then sent off for a second bookable offence in injury time.

Group F

Sep 16

Dynamo Kyiv (Ukr) 3 (Yussuf 71, Gerson Magrao 79, Husiev 85)
Rubin Kazan (Rus) 1 (Dominguez 25)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Eremenko, Khacheridi, Leandro Almeida, Gerson Magrao, Yussuf, Vukojevic, Shevchenko (Betao 90), Ninkovic (Ghioane 57), Yarmolenko (Husiev 65), Milevskyi.
Rubin: Ryzhikov - Kaleshin, Cesar Navas, Sharonov, Ansaldi, Semak, Noboa, Ryazantsev (Kasaev 83), Dominguez (Murawski 77), Gokdeniz, Bukharov.

Sep 16

Internazionale (Ita) 0
Barcelona (Spa) 0
Att: 80,065. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Inter: Julio Cesar - Maicon, Lucio, Samuel, Chivu, Zanetti, Muntari (Stankovic 62), Thiago Motta, Sneijder (Santon 80), Eto'o, Milito (Balotelli 85).
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves, Puyol, Pique, Abidal, Toure (Busquets 68), Xavi, Keita, Iniesta (Pedro 46), Messi, Ibrahimovic (Jeffren 85).
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Eremenko, Khacheridi, Leandro Almeida, Gerson Magrao (Betao 73), Yussuf (Ghioane 46), Vukojevic, Husiev (Ninkovic 86), Shevchenko, Yarmolenko, Milevskyi.

Sep 29

Barcelona 2 (Messi 26, Pedro 76)
Dynamo Kyiv 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 68,221. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves, Puyol, Pique, Abidal, Toure (Busquets 68), Xavi, Keita, Iniesta (Pedro 46), Messi, Ibrahimovic (Jeffren 85).
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Eremenko, Khacheridi, Leandro Almeida, Gerson Magrao (Betao 73), Yussuf (Ghioane 46), Vukojevic, Husiev (Ninkovic 86), Shevchenko, Yarmolenko, Milevskyi.

Sep 29

Rubin Kazan 1 (Dominguez 11)
Internazionale 1 (Stankovic 27)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 23,670. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Rubin: Ryzhikov - Salukvadze, Sharonov, Cesar Navas, Ansaldi, Noboa, Semak, Ryazantsev, Gokdeniz, Dominguez (Kasaev 86), Bukharov.
Inter: Julio Cesar - Maicon, Lucio, Samuel, Chivu, Cambiasso (Vieira 79), Stankovic, Zanetti, Mancini (Ricardo Quaresma 64), Eto'o, Balotelli.
Sent off: Balotelli 60min.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Dynamo Kyiv	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Internazionale	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Rubin Kazan	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group G

Sep 16

Sevilla (Spa) 2 (Luis Fabiano 45, Renato 70)
Unirea Urziceni (Rom) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Trefoloni (Ita)
Sevilla: Palop - Sergio Sanchez, Squillaci, Escude, Fernando Navarro, Zokora (Lolo 76), Renato, Jesus Navas, Capel (Perotti 55), Luis Fabiano, Kanoute (Negredo 63).
Urziceni: Arlauskis - Maftei, Galamaz, Mehmedovic, Brandan, Ricardo Gomes (Onofras 81), Frunza, Balan (Paraschiv 65), Apostol, Varga (Semedo 73), Bilasco.

Sep 16

Stuttgart (Ger) 1 (Pogrebnyak 18)
Rangers (Sco) 1 (Bougherra 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,000. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Stuttgart: Lehmann - Trasch, Tasci, Delpierre, Boka, Khedira, Hitzlsperger, Hilbert, Hleb (Gebhart 67), Cacau (Schieber 88), Pogrebnyak.
Rangers: McGregor - Whittaker, Bougherra, McCulloch, Papac, Thomson, Davis, Pedro Mendes, Rothen, Naismith, Miller (Novo 90).

Sep 29

Rangers 1 (Novo 88)
Sevilla 4 (Konko 50, Adriano 64, Luis Fabiano 72, Kanoute 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,572. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Rangers: McGregor - Whittaker, Bougherra, Weir, Papac, Thomson, Davis, McCulloch (Boyd 73), Pedro Mendes, Rothen (Novo 73), Naismith.
Sevilla: Palop - Konko, Squillaci, Escude, Lolo, Zokora, Jesus Navas, Fernando Navarro, Adriano (Capel 66), Luis Fabiano (Ndri 79), Kanoute (Negredo 75).

Sep 29

Unirea Urziceni 1 (Varga 48)
Stuttgart 1 (Tasci 5)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,557. **Ref:** Duhamel (Fra)
Urziceni: Arlauskis - Galamaz, Maftei, Bruno Fernandes, Ricardo Gomes, Apostol, Nicu, Brandan, Varga (Paduretu 90), Balan (Frunza 46), Bilasco (Rusescu 64).
Stuttgart: Lehmann - Celozzi, Tasci, Delpierre, Boka, Khedira, Hitzlsperger, Hilbert, Gebhart, Marica (Schieber 64), Pogrebnyak.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sevilla	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Stuttgart	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Urziceni	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Rangers	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

Group H

Sep 16

Olympiakos (Gre) 1 (Torosidis 79)
AZ Alkmaar (Hol) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 29,018. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Olympiakos: Nikopolidis - Zewlakow, A Papadopoulos, Mellberg, Raul Bravo, Torosidis (Oscar 85), Dudu Cearense, Ledesma, Zairi, Diogo (Mitroglou 73), Leonardo (Stoltidis 81).
AZ: Romero - Jaliens, Moisander, Moreno, Pocognoli, Schaars, Mendes da Silva (Luijckx 72), Martens (Lens 79), El Hamdaoui (Pelle 76), Holman, Dembele.

Sep 16

Standard Liege (Blg) 2 (Mangala 2, Jovanovic pen 5)
Arsenal (Eng) 3 (Bendtner 45, Vermaelen 78, Eduardo 81)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 23,022. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
Standard: Bolat - Camozzato, Sarr, Mangala, Ricardo Rocha, Witsel (Traore 85), Carcela-Gonzalez, Dalmat (Goreux 80), De Camargo, Jovanovic (Nicaise 59), Mbokani.
Arsenal: Mannone - Eboue (Sagna 78), Gallas, Vermaelen, Clichy, Song, Fabregas, Rosicky (Ramsey 70), Diaby, Bendtner, Eduardo (Wilshere 87).

Sep 29

Arsenal 2 (Van Persie 78, Arshavin 86)
Olympiakos 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 59,884. **Ref:** Lannoy (Fra)
Arsenal: Mannone - Eboue, Gallas, Vermaelen, Clichy, Song, Rosicky (Eduardo 66), Fabregas, Diaby (Vela 78), Arshavin, Van Persie (Ramsey 85).
Olympiakos: Nikopolidis - Zewlakow, A Papadopoulos, Mellberg, Raul Bravo, Zairi (Stoltidis 46), Ledesma (Mitroglou 79), Dudu Cearense, Leonardo (Oscar 83), Torosidis, Diogo.

Sep 29

AZ Alkmaar 1 (El Hamdaoui 48)
Standard Liege 1 (Traore 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,373. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
AZ: Romero - Swerts, Jaliens, Moreno, Pocognoli (Klavan 82), Holman, Mendes da Silva, Schaars, Martens (Poulsen 71), El Hamdaoui, Dembele.
Standard: Bolat - Camozzato, Felipe, Sarr (De Camargo 60), Mangala, Ricardo Rocha (Mulemo 53), Dalmat (Traore 77), Witsel, Carcela-Gonzalez, Jovanovic, Mbokani.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Olympiakos	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Standard	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
AZ Alkmaar	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Top two in each group qualify for 1st knockout round; 3rd-placed teams enter Europa League at 1st knockout round stage

EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 17: Ajax (Hol) 0 Timisoara (Rom) 0; Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 0 Anderlecht (Blg) 2.
Oct 1: Anderlecht 1 Ajax 1; Timisoara 0 Dinamo Zagreb 3.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Dinamo Z	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Ajax	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Timisoara	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

Group B

Sep 17: Genoa (Ita) 2 Slavia Prague (Cze) 0; Lille (Fra) 1 Valencia (Spa) 1.
Oct 1: Slavia Prague 1 Lille 5; Valencia 3 Genoa 2.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valencia	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Lille	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Genoa	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Slavia Prague	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

Group C

Sep 17: Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 2 Celtic (Sco) 1; Rapid Wien (Aut) 3 Hamburg (Ger) 0.
Oct 1: Celtic 1 Rapid Wien 1; Hamburg 4 Hapoel Tel Aviv 2.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid Wien	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Hamburg	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Hapoel TA	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Celtic	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Group D

Sep 17: Heerenveen (Hol) 2 Sporting Lisbon (Por) 3; Hertha Berlin (Ger) 1 Ventspils (Lat) 1.
Oct 1: Sporting Lisbon 1 Hertha Berlin 0; Ventspils 0 Heerenveen 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting L	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Ventspils	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Heerenveen	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Hertha Berlin	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Group E

Sep 17: Basle (Swi) 2 Roma (Ita) 0; CSKA Sofia (Bul) 1 Fulham (Eng) 1.
Oct 1: Fulham 1 Basle 0; Roma 2 CSKA Sofia 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Basle	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Roma	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
CSKA Sofia	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Group F

Sep 17: Panathinaikos (Gre) 1 Galatasaray (Tur) 3; Sturm Graz (Aut) 0 Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) 1.
Oct 1: Dinamo Bucharest 0 Panathinaikos 1; Galatasaray 1 Sturm Graz 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Panathinaikos	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Dinamo Buch	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Sturm Graz	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Group G

Sep 17: Lazio (Ita) 1 Salzburg (Aut) 2; Villarreal (Spa) 1 Levski Sofia (Bul) 0.
Oct 1: Levski Sofia 0 Lazio 4; Salzburg 2 Villarreal 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Lazio	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Villarreal	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Levski Sofia	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group H

Sep 17: Fenerbahce (Tur) 1 Twente Enschede (Hol) 2; Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 0 Sheriff (Mol) 0.
Oct 1: Sheriff 0 Fenerbahce 1; Twente Enschede 0 Steaua Bucharest 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Twente	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Fenerbahce	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Steaua	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Sheriff	2	0	1	1	0	1	1

Group I

Sep 17: Benfica (Por) 2 BATE Borisov (Bls) 0; Everton (Eng) 4 AEK Athens (Gre) 0.
Oct 1: AEK Athens 1 Benfica 0; BATE Borisov 1 Everton 2.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
AEK Athens	2	1	0	1	1	4	3
Benfica	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
BATE Borisov	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Group J

Sep 17: Club Brugge (Blg) 1 Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 4; Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 2 Toulouse (Fra) 3.
Oct 1: Shakhtar Donetsk 4 Partizan Belgrade 1; Toulouse 2 Club Brugge 2.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP J

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Toulouse	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Club Brugge	2	0	1	1	3	6	1
Partizan	2	0	0	2	3	7	0

Hoop dreams...Sporting Lisbon

ARMENIA

Cup boost for Ararat

Ararat Yerevan came from behind to beat Pyunik 2-1 to win the Armenian Super Cup for the first time.

"This win should give us a morale boost and we will try to improve our position in the league," said Ararat coach Albert Safaryan, whose side are bottom of the table with eight points from 22 games.

AUSTRIA

Seven up for Salzburg

Marc Janko scored four goals in 38 minutes, including a nine-minute hat trick, as Salzburg thrashed bottom side Austria Karnten 7-1.

BELARUS

Four on the trot

BATE Borisov beat Naftan Novopolotsk 4-0 to seal their fourth successive league title.

"We still have five more league matches to play and four more in the Europa League so we have to save our celebrations for later," said coach Viktor Goncharenko.

BELGIUM

Brugge come out on top

Club Brugge beat Anderlecht 4-2 to leapfrog their great rivals at the top of the table.

Four star...Janko

Group K

Sep 17: CFR Cluj (Rom) 2 Copenhagen (Den) 0; Sparta Prague (Cze) 2 PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 2.
Oct 1: Copenhagen 1 Sparta Prague 0; PSV Eindhoven 1 CFR Cluj 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP K	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
CFR Cluj	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Copenhagen	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Sparta Prague	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Group L

Sep 17: Athletic Bilbao (Spa) 3 Austria Wien (Aut) 0; Nacional (Por) 2 Werder Bremen (Ger) 3.
Oct 1: Austria Wien 1 Nacional 1; Werder Bremen 3 Athletic Bilbao 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP L	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werder	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
Ath Bilbao	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Nacional	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Austria Wien	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Top two in each group qualify for 1st knockout round, to which the third-placed sides from the eight Champions League groups will also qualify

AUSTRIA

Sep 22: Wiener Neustadt 3 Mattersburg 0.
Sep 23: Kapfenberger 0 Rapid 1; Salzburg 4 Sturm 2; LASK 3 Austria Karnten 1; Austria Wien 1 Ried 1.
Sep 26: Kapfenberger 0 Sturm 1; Rapid 3 Wiener Neustadt 1; Mattersburg 1 Austria Wien 3; Austria Karnten 1 Salzburg 2.
Sep 27: Ried 5 LASK 2.
Oct 3: LASK 2 Ried 2.
Oct 4: Austria Wien 1 Mattersburg 0; Sturm 0 Kapfenberger 0; Salzburg 7 Austria Karnten 1; Wiener Neustadt 0 Rapid 4.

AUSTRIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	10	7	2	1	28	13	23
Austria Wien	10	6	2	2	19	12	20
Rapid	9	5	3	1	22	9	18
Sturm	9	5	2	2	16	10	17
LASK	10	4	2	4	29	25	14
Ried	10	3	4	3	13	13	13
Mattersburg	10	4	0	6	13	18	12
W Neustadt	10	3	1	6	15	22	10
Kapfenberger	10	2	1	7	6	19	7
A Karnten	10	1	1	8	11	31	4

BELGIUM

Sep 18: Genk 1 Charleroi 2.
Sep 19: Zulte Waregem 3 Mouscron 1; Cercle Brugge 1 Germinal Beerschot 2; Lokeren 1 Standard 3; Kortrijk 0 St Truiden 1; Mechelen 3 Roeselare 2.
Sep 20: Westerlo 1 Club Brugge 4; Anderlecht 1 Gent 1.
Sep 22: St Truiden 2 Genk 4.
Sep 23: Club Brugge 3 Zulte Waregem 1; Standard 1 Cercle Brugge 1; Charleroi 1 Mechelen 2; Gent 1 Westerlo 2; Roeselare 1 Lokeren 2; Germinal Beerschot 1 Kortrijk 0.
Sep 24: Mouscron 1 Anderlecht 2.
Sep 26: Genk 1 Roeselare 1; Zulte Waregem 3 Gent 1; Lokeren 4 Charleroi 1; Kortrijk 0 Standard 2; Westerlo 2 St Truiden 0.
Sep 27: Anderlecht 1 Germinal Beerschot 0; Mouscron 1 Club Brugge 1.
Sep 28: Cercle Brugge 1 Mechelen 0.
Oct 2: Gent 1 Mouscron 1.
Oct 3: St Truiden 1 Zulte Waregem 2; Charleroi 3 Kortrijk 3; Mechelen 2 Lokeren 0; Roeselare 3 Cercle Brugge 2; Germinal Beerschot 3 Westerlo 1.
Oct 4: Club Brugge 4 Anderlecht 2; Standard 1 Genk 0.

BELGIUM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	10	6	3	1	23	13	21
Standard	10	5	5	0	20	8	20
Anderlecht	10	6	2	2	18	11	20
Mechelen	10	6	0	4	17	14	18
St Truiden	10	5	2	3	14	13	17
Gent	10	4	3	3	19	13	15
Germinal B	10	4	3	3	12	11	15
Z Waregem	10	4	3	3	16	16	15
Charleroi	10	3	3	4	13	18	12
Cercle Brugge	10	3	2	5	17	17	11
Genk	10	2	5	3	13	13	11
Kortrijk	10	2	4	4	11	14	10
Lokeren	10	3	1	6	15	19	10
Westerlo	10	3	1	6	10	19	10
Mouscron	10	1	4	5	9	16	7
Roeselare	10	1	3	6	12	24	6

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Sep 19: Laktasi 0 Travnik 0; Leotar 1 Sarajevo 0; Celik 1 Olimpik 2; Siroki Brijeg 2 Velez 0; Zvijezda 0 Modrica 1; Zrinjski 2 Sloboda 0; Slavija 0 Borac 1; Zeljeznicar 1 Rudar 1.
Sep 26: Travnik 1 Rudar 0; Sloboda 1 Slavija 0; Modrica 1 Zrinjski 2; Velez 4 Zvijezda 0; Laktasi 0 Leotar 1; Borac 2 Zeljeznicar 0; Sarajevo 3 Celik 1.
Sep 27: Olimpik 0 Siroki Brijeg 1.
Oct 3: Leotar 2 Travnik 0; Celik 2 Laktasi 1; Zvijezda 3 Olimpik 4; Zeljeznicar 4 Sloboda 1; Rudar 1 Borac 0.
Oct 4: Zrinjski 2 Velez 1; Slavija 4 Modrica 1.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Borac	9	7	1	1	15	4	22
Velez	9	5	2	2	20	7	17
Siroki Brijeg	8	5	1	2	12	6	16
Zrinjski	9	4	3	2	13	12	15
Leotar	9	5	0	4	7	6	15
Zeljeznicar	9	3	4	2	10	8	13
Olimpik	8	4	1	3	11	15	13
Sarajevo	7	3	2	2	10	9	11
Rudar	9	3	2	4	8	8	11
Modrica	9	3	2	4	13	15	11
Sloboda	9	3	1	5	8	15	10
Slavija	9	2	3	4	7	8	9
Travnik	9	2	3	4	8	13	9
Laktasi	9	2	2	5	12	15	8
Celik	9	2	2	5	7	11	8
Zvijezda	9	2	1	6	8	17	7

BULGARIA

Sep 18: Lokomotiv Sofia 0 Montana 0.
Sep 19: Slavia 2 Sliven 1; Beroe 1 Sportist 0; Chernomorets 2 Pirin 1.
Sep 20: Cherno More 1 Minyor 0; Lovech 2 Botev 1; CSKA 2 Levski 0.
Sep 21: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0 Lokomotiv Mezdra 1.
Sep 25: Sliven 1 Lokomotiv Sofia 3.
Sep 26: Botev 0 Slavia 1; Montana 1 CSKA 2; Lokomotiv Mezdra 2 Beroe 1; Sportist 2 Cherno More 1.
Sep 27: Minyor 0 Lovech 1; Levski 0 Chernomorets 1.
Sep 28: Pirin 0 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0.
Oct 2: Slavia 1 Minyor 0.

ESM Team of the Month

European Sports Magazines SEPTEMBER 2009

HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Magazines group vote for their first XI from Europe's top leagues. The players with the most votes make the overall team. For details of how ESM members voted this month, visit: **worldsoccer.com/esm11**

Struggling...Portsmouth (in blue)

DENMARK

Keeper's red card costs Esbjerg

League leaders Esbjerg had their goalkeeper Lars Winde sent off after just three minutes as they lost 2-1 at third place Copenhagen.

OB went top with a 2-1 victory over AaB Aalborg in a title race in which four points separate the first five teams.

Down at the bottom, strugglers Randers remain the only side without a win after losing 2-1 at home to Silkeborg.

FAROE ISLANDS

HB triumph again

HB won the league title for the 20th time. "This is big, I have always dreamt of this," said the Torshavn-based club's coach, Samal Erik Hentze. "I hadn't expected it to happen this early in my career."

HB now qualify for the first qualifying round of next season's Champions League, while EB/Streymur and NSI Runavik join cup winners Vikingur in the Europa League.

FRANCE

Bordeaux finally beaten

Bordeaux's 22-match unbeaten run came to an end with a 3-1 defeat at struggling Saint-Etienne, just days after they beat Maccabi Haifa in the Champions League.

It was the first time *les*

7 opening league matches lost by Portsmouth, the worst start in England's top flight for 79 years

Oct 3: Cherno More 0 Lovech 0; Lokomotiv Sofia 2 Botev 2; Sportist 0 Lokomotiv Mezdra 4; Chernomorets 1 Montana 1.
Oct 4: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2 Levski 2; CSKA 1 Sliven 0.
Oct 5: Beroe 1 Pirin 1.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	8	7	1	0	19	1	22
Chernomorets	8	6	2	0	17	5	20
Lok Sofia	8	5	2	1	14	9	17
Lovech	7	5	1	1	13	3	16
Slavia	8	4	1	3	7	8	13
Beroe	8	3	3	2	9	9	12
Cherno More	8	3	2	3	10	5	11
Levski	7	3	1	3	13	8	10
Minyor	8	3	1	4	8	7	10
Montana	8	2	4	2	7	8	10
Pirin	8	2	3	3	4	5	9
Lok Mezdra	8	3	0	5	8	18	9
Sportist	8	2	1	5	7	16	7
Lok Plovdiv	8	1	2	5	6	15	5
Sliven	8	1	1	6	8	16	4
Botev	8	0	1	7	5	22	1

CROATIA

Sep 18: Medimurje 2 Inter 1.
Sep 19: Istra 0 Cibalia 0; Osijek 3 Zadar 0; Hajduk 2 Zagreb 0; Sibenik 2 Varteks 1; Karlovac 0 Lokomotiva 1; Sesvete 1 Slaven 1.
Sep 20: Dinamo 6 Rijeka 0.
Sep 25: Zagreb 0 Sibenik 2.
Sep 26: Inter 1 Sesvete 2; Rijeka 4 Medimurje 0; Zadar 1 Istra 1; Slaven 5 Osijek 2; Lokomotiva 0 Dinamo 1; Varteks 0 Karlovac 1.
Sep 27: Cibalia 0 Hajduk 0.
Oct 2: Medimurje 0 Lokomotiva 3.
Oct 3: Sesvete 1 Rijeka 2; Zadar 1 Slaven 0; Istra 0 Hajduk 1; Sibenik 0 Cibalia 2; Karlovac 0 Zagreb 0; Osijek 4 Inter 2.
Oct 4: Dinamo 2 Varteks 1.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	10	9	1	0	37	4	28
Cibalia	10	6	2	2	13	3	20
Karlovac	10	5	4	1	10	4	19
Sibenik	10	5	3	2	11	8	18
Rijeka	10	5	2	3	19	12	17
Osijek	10	5	2	3	20	18	17
Hajduk	10	4	3	3	11	8	15
Slaven	10	4	2	4	14	18	14
Zadar	10	4	2	4	7	13	14
Lokomotiva	10	4	1	5	12	15	13
Medimurje	10	4	1	5	15	22	13
Varteks	10	3	2	5	8	15	11
Istra	10	2	3	5	11	21	9
Inter	10	2	2	6	11	14	8
Sesvete	10	1	3	6	11	19	6
Zagreb	10	0	1	9	4	20	1

CYPRUS

Sep 19: AEP 1 Doxa 2; Aris 1 Apollon 1; Omonia 2 Ethnikos 0.
Sep 20: ENP 1 APOEL 1; Nea Salamina 1 Anorthosis 2; AEL 2 APEP 0.
Sep 21: Ermis 2 APOP 3.
Sep 26: ENP 2 Ermis 0; Apollon 4 Nea Salamina 1; Ethnikos 1 AEP 2; APOEL 3 Doxa 0.
Sep 27: APOP 1 Aris 1; Anorthosis 1 AEL 0.
Sep 28: APEP 1 Omonia 1.
Oct 3: Doxa 1 Ethnikos 0; Aris 1 ENP 1; AEP 2 APEP 1; Omonia 1 Anorthosis 1.
Oct 4: AEL 0 Apollon 0; Nea Salamina 1 APOP 2.
Oct 5: Ermis 1 APOEL 2.

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apollon	5	3	2	0	10	3	11
Omonia	5	3	2	0	11	6	11
Anorthosis	5	3	2	0	7	3	11
AEL	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
APOP	5	3	1	1	11	9	10
APOEL	5	2	2	1	9	6	8
ENP	5	2	2	1	6	6	8
AEP	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Aris	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
Doxa	5	2	0	3	5	9	6
APEP	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
Ermis	5	0	1	4	4	9	1
Nea Salamina	5	0	1	4	5	11	1
Ethnikos	5	0	1	4	3	10	1

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sep 19: Plzen 2 Mlada Boleslav 1; Jablonec 2 Liberec 1.
Sep 20: Bohemians 1 Pribram 0; Ceske Budejovice 0 Slovacko 0; Teplice 1 Bohemians 1905 0; Olomouc 1 Kladno 2.
Sep 21: Slavia 3 Ostrava 1; Brno 1 Sparta 1.
Sep 26: Liberec 2 Slovacko 0; Ostrava 2 Teplice 2; Sparta 0 Plzen 0; Bohemians 1905 1 Slavia 1.
Sep 27: Pribram 3 Ceske Budejovice 1; Kladno 3 Bohemians 2; Olomouc 0 Jablonec 1.
Sep 28: Mlada Boleslav 0 Brno 0.
Oct 2: Brno 2 Pribram 1.
Oct 3: Plzen 1 Olomouc 0; Teplice 2 Liberec 0; Slovacko 0 Ostrava 2.
Oct 4: Bohemians 0 Bohemians 1905 0; Ceske Budejovice 0 Kladno 0; Jablonec 1 Mlada Boleslav 0.
Oct 5: Slavia 0 Sparta 1.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jablonec	10	7	2	1	13	8	23
Teplice	10	6	4	0	19	8	22
Sparta	10	4	6	0	9	3	18
Ostrava	10	5	3	2	13	10	18
Plzen	10	5	2	3	12	10	17
Slavia	10	4	4	2	14	9	16
Brno	10	4	4	2	10	7	16
Pribram	10	4	2	4	11	10	14
M Boleslav	10	3	3	4	13	10	12
Boh'ians 1905	10	2	5	3	5	5	11
Liberec	10	3	2	5	13	15	11
Kladno	10	3	2	5	9	14	11
Olomouc	10	1	4	5	8	12	7
Slovacko	10	2	1	7	8	16	7
Bohemians	10	2	1	7	7	17	7
C Budejovice	10	1	3	6	5	15	6

DENMARK

Sep 19: AaB 0 Silkeborg 1.
Sep 20: HB Koge 1 OB 3; SonderjyskE 2 Brondby 4; Nordsjaelland 0 Esbjerg 4; Copenhagen 3 Randers 0.
Sep 21: AGF 2 Midtjylland 4.
Sep 26: OB 2 Nordsjaelland 0.
Sep 27: Midtjylland 0 SonderjyskE 2; Randers 1 HB Koge 1; Silkeborg 4 Brondby 1; AaB 1 Copenhagen 2.
Sep 28: Esbjerg 3 AGF 2.
Oct 3: AGF 2 SonderjyskE 1.
Oct 4: Randers 1 Silkeborg 2; Midtjylland 2 HB Koge 1; Copenhagen 2 Esbjerg 1; Brondby 6 Nordsjaelland 3.
Oct 5: OB 2 AaB 1.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OB	11	7	3	1	20	12	24
Esbjerg	11	7	2	2	21	12	23
Copenhagen	11	6	3	2	22	10	21
Brondby	11	6	2	3	28	19	20
AGF	11	6	2	3	19	16	20
Silkeborg	11	5	4	2	21	14	19
AaB	11	6	0	5	15	8	18
SonderjyskE	11	3	2	6	10	14	11
Nordsjaelland	11	3	2	6	13	19	11
Midtjylland	11	3	1	7	12	21	10
HB Koge	11	1	3	7	11	31	6
Randers	11	0	2	9	8	24	2

ENGLAND

Saturday, September 19

Arsenal 4 (Vermaelen 25, 49, Eboue 59, Fabregas 90)
Wigan 0 Att: 59,103

Aston Villa 2 (Milner pen 34, Agbonlahor 43)
Portsmouth 0 Att: 35,979

Bolton 1 (Taylor pen 89)
Stoke 1 (Kitson 53) Att: 20,265

Burnley 3 (Alexander pen 13, Nugent 67, 86)
Sunderland 1 (Bent 39) Att: 20,196

Hull 0
Birmingham 1 (O'Connor 75) Att: 23,759

West Ham 2 (Diamanti pen 29, Cole 45)
Liverpool 3 (Fernando Torres 20, 75, Kuyt 41) Att: 34,658

Sunday, September 20

Chelsea 3 (A Cole 32, Ballack 58, Drogba 63)
Tottenham 0 Att: 41,623

Everton 3 (Saha 22, 54, Yobo 58)
Blackburn 0 Att: 35,546

Manchester United 4 (Rooney 2, Fletcher 49, 80, Owen 90+)
Manchester City 3 (Barry 16, Bellamy 52, 90) Att: 75,066

Wolverhampton 2 (Doyle 18, Edwards 50)
Fulham 1 (Murphy pen 66) Att: 27,670

Saturday, September 26

Birmingham 1 (Phillips 84)
Bolton 2 (Cohen 10, Lee 86) Att: 28,671

Blackburn 2 (Samba 24, Dunn pen 88)
Aston Villa 1 (Agbonlahor 3) Att: 25,172

Fulham 0
Arsenal 1 (Van Persie 52) Att: 25,700

Liverpool 6 (Torres 12, 28, 47, Gerrard 61, Babel 88, 90)
Hull 1 (Geovanni 15) Att: 44,392

Portsmouth 0
Everton 1 (Saha 42) Att: 18,116

Stoke 0
Manchester United 2 (Berbatov 62, O'Shea 77) Att: 27,500

Tottenham 5 (Keane pen 18, 74, 77, 87, Jenas 33)
Burnley 0 Att: 35,462

Wigan 3 (Bramble 16, Rodallega pen 53, Scharner 90)
Chelsea 1 (Drogba 47) Att: 18,542

Sunday, September 27

Sunderland 5 (Bent pen 8, Jones pen 48, 70, Turner 73, Mancienne og 90)
Wolverhampton 2 (Mensah og 50, Doyle 55) Att: 37,566

Monday, September 28

Manchester City 3 (Tevez 4, 60, Petrov 31)
West Ham 1 (Cole 23) Att: 42,745

Saturday, October 3

Bolton 2 (Gardner 3, Davies 68)
Tottenham 2 (Kranjcar 33, Corluka 73) Att: 21,305

Burnley 2 (Fletcher 52, Bikey 61)
Birmingham 1 (Larsson 90) Att: 20,102

Hull 2 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 59, Geovanni 67)
Wigan 1 (Sinclair 86) Att: 22,822

Manchester United 2 (Berbatov 50, A Ferdinand og 90)
Sunderland 2 (Bent 7, Jones 58) Att: 75,114

Wolverhampton 0
Portsmouth 1 (Yebda 19) Att: 29,023

Sunday, October 4

Arsenal 6 (Vermaelen 16, Van Persie 32, Arshavin 37, Fabregas 56, Walcott 75, Bendtner 89)
Blackburn 2 (Nzonzi 4, Dunn 30) Att: 59,431

Chelsea 2 (Anelka 59, Malouda 90)
Liverpool 0 Att: 41,732

Everton 1 (Osman 55)
Stoke 1 (Huth 49) Att: 36,753

West Ham 2 (Cole 16, Stanislas 90)
Fulham 2 (Murphy pen 46, Gera 57) Att: 32,612

Monday, October 5

Aston Villa 1 (Dunne 15)
Manchester City 1 (Bellamy 67) Att: 37,924

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	8	7	0	1	18	6	21
Man Utd	8	6	1	1	19	8	19
Tottenham	8	5	1	2	19	12	16
Man City	7	5	1	1	15	8	16
Arsenal	7	5	0	2	24	10	15
Liverpool	8	5	0	3	22	12	15
Aston Villa	7	4	1	2	10	6	13
Sunderland	8	4	1	3	16	13	13
Burnley	8	4	0	4	7	16	12
Everton	7	3	1	3	9	11	10
Stoke	8	2	3	3	6	10	9
Wigan	8	3	0	5	8	15	9
Bolton	7	2	2	3	10	11	8
Birmingham	8	2	1	5	5	8	7
Fulham	7	2	1	4	6	10	7
Blackburn	7	2	1	4	8	15	7
Wolves	8	2	1	5	7	14	7
Hull	8	2	1	5	8	20	7
West Ham	7	1	2	4	8	11	5
Portsmouth	8	1	0	7	4	13	3

LEADING GOALSCORERS

8 Fernando Torres (Liverpool)
7 Darren Bent (Sunderland)
6 Didier Drogba (Chelsea)
6 Wayne Rooney (Manchester United)

Upset...Saint-Etienne (in green)

Girondins has been beaten since March and allowed Lyon to go a point ahead of Laurent Blanc's reigning champions at the top of the table.

The season's surprise package Montpellier are in third place.

GERMANY

Top two in cup shocks

League leaders Hamburg were knocked out of the German Cup by third division VfL Osnabruck on penalties after a 3-3 draw. Other Bundesliga casualties to fall to lower-league clubs were Bayer Leverkusen, Borussia Monchengladbach, Hertha Berlin and Freiburg.

Italy striker Luca Toni has gone on strike after refusing to play for Bayern Munich's B team in the third division. "The trainer told me I should play for the reserves and get the chance to play 90 minutes, but I don't think that is a good idea," said the 32-year-old.

Meanwhile, Bochum sacked Swiss coach Marcel Koller after the 3-2 home defeat by Mainz.

Bayer Leverkusen are joint top with Hamburg, who piled on the misery for bottom club Hertha Berlin as they won 3-1 to spoil Friedhelm Funkel's big day after he replaced Lucien Favre as coach.

Striker...Toni

FINLAND

Sep 20: HJK 2 VPS 0; Inter 3 JJK 0; Jaro 1 TPS 0; Honka 2 Haka 0; RoPS 1 Tampere 5; Mariehamn 2 Lahti 0; MyPa 1 KuPS 2.
Sep 23: VPS 2 Inter 2; TPS 3 KuPS 0; Tampere 1 HJK 2; Jaro 3 Honka 5; RoPS 1 MyPa 1; Lahti 3 JJK 1; Haka 5 Mariehamn 1.
Sep 26: KuPS 0 Honka 4; Inter 2 Tampere 2; JJK 1 VPS 2.
Sep 27: HJK 1 MyPa 0; RoPS 0 TPS 4; Mariehamn 2 Jaro 1; Lahti 2 Haka 4.
Oct 4: Tampere 0 Lahti 2; MyPa 2 TPS 2; Inter 1 HJK 1; Honka 9 RoPS 0; KuPS 3 VPS 3; Jaro 1 Haka 0; Mariehamn 3 JJK 1.

FINLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HJK	25	14	9	2	44	20	51
Honka	25	13	9	3	65	29	48
TPS	25	13	9	3	46	20	48
Mariehamn	25	10	12	3	30	21	42
Haka	25	10	7	8	38	32	37
Inter	25	10	7	8	35	29	37
Tampere	25	11	3	11	29	29	36
VPS	25	10	4	11	30	36	34
MyPa	25	8	7	10	29	28	31
Jaro	25	8	7	10	32	33	31
Lahti	25	8	7	10	32	37	31
KuPS	25	5	5	15	26	55	20
RoPS	25	4	4	17	23	63	16
JJK	25	3	6	16	23	50	15

FRANCE

Saturday, September 19

Boulogne 0
Bordeaux 2 (Gouffran 34, Lachor og 70) Att: 13,178

Grenoble 0
Rennes 4 (Gyan 1, pen 61, Marveaux 7, Mangane 20) Att: 13,541

Lorient 3 (Diarra 42, Gameiro 60, Monterrubio pen 90+)
Nancy 1 (Alo'o 90) Att: 9,601

Marseille 4 (Gonzalez 31, Niang 34, Cisse 39, Diawara 50)
Montpellier 2 (Belhanda 75, Camara pen 88) Att: 52,341

Nice 1 (Remy 42)
Monaco 3 (Nene pen 8, Alonso 12, 71) Att: 8,030

Saint-Etienne 1 (Bergessio 13)
Auxerre 1 (Lejeune 76) Att: 24,309

Sochaux 2 (Brechet 3, Boudebouz 41)
Valenciennes 5 (Sanchez 24, Pujol 49, 85, Audel 63, Ben Khalfallah 78) Att: 11,880

Sunday, September 20

Lens 1 (Boukari 57)
Lille 1 (Rami 90) Att: 35,712

Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Giuly 29)
Lyon 1 (Gomis 85) Att: 44,778

Toulouse 2 (Didot 26, Sissoko 69)
Le Mans 0 Att: 13,072

Saturday, September 26

Auxerre 2 (Pedretti 63, Hengbart 84)
Grenoble 0 Att: 8,566

Lorient 1 (Mvuemba 40)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Hoarau 45) Att: 11,192

Lyon 2 (Tafer 52, Gomis 71)
Toulouse 1 (Sissoko 9) Att: 34,031

Monaco 1 (Puygrenier 56)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Sanogo 3, Bergessio 90) Att: 8,490

Montpellier 1 (Dzodic 79)
Boulogne 0 Att: 13,191

Nancy 2 (Hadji pen 3, 39)
Sochaux 1 (Martin 82) Att: 15,329

Valenciennes 3 (Bisevac 21, Ducourtioux 29, Schmitz 84)
Marseille 2 (Morientes 13, Niang 22) Att: 16,208

Sunday, September 27

Bordeaux 1 (Wendel 23)
Rennes 0 Att: 26,811

Le Mans 3 (Thomas 14, 30, Le Tallec 62)
Lens 0 Att: 8,693

Lille 1 (Frau 89)
Nice 1 (Remy 61) Att: 13,529

Saturday, October 3

Grenoble 2 (Ljuboja 47, Dieuze 90)
Montpellier 3 (Montano 2, Dzodic 12, 49) Att: 14,676

Lens 0
Lyon 2 (Govou 7, Kallstrom 78) Att: 39,423

Nice 3 (Ben Saada 67, Echouafni 73, Ducourtioux og 77)
Valenciennes 2 (Samassa pen 40, Sanchez 50) Att: 9,443

Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Sessegnon 18)
Nancy 1 (Hadji 14) Att: 36,779

Rennes 0
Auxerre 1 (Pedretti 17) Att: 23,178

Saint-Etienne 3 (Fernandez 8, Ilan 29, Payet 90)
Bordeaux 1 (Jussie pen 69) Att: 30,089

Sochaux 1 (Martin 79)
Le Mans 0 Att: 10,385

Sunday, October 4

Boulogne 2 (Dembele 33, Blayac 45)
Lille 3 (Gervinho 42, Frau 51, 57) Att: 10,272

Marseille 1 (Niang 86)
Monaco 2 (Nene 20, Park 42) Att: 49,000

Toulouse 0
Lorient 1 (Monterrubio pen 90) Att: 25,435

FRANCE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	8	6	2	0	15	5	20
Bordeaux	8	6	1	1	16	6	19
Montpellier	8	5	2	1	15	9	17
Monaco	8	5	0	3	11	9	15
Marseille	8	4	2	2	13	9	14
Lorient	8	4	2	2	10	8	14
PSG	8	3	4	1	13	9	13
Rennes	8	3	3	2	12	6	12
Nancy	8	3	2	3	13	11	11
Auxerre	8	3	2	3	6	7	11
Valenciennes	8	3	1	4	15	15	10
Saint-Etienne	8	3	1	4	8	10	10
Lille	8	2	3	3	8	11	9
Sochaux	8	3	0	5	8	13	9
Toulouse	8	2	2	4	7	7	8
Boulogne	8	2	2	4	6	11	8
Lens	8	2	2	4	8	14	8
Nice	8	2	2	4	8	16	8
Le Mans	8	2	1	5	9	12	7
Grenoble	8	0	0	8	4	17	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 Mamadou Niang (Marseille)
5 Nene (Monaco)

GERMANY

Friday, September 18

Schalke 1 (Howedes 80)
Wolfsburg 2 (Dzeko 55, 81) Att: 60,365

Saturday, September 19

Bayern Munich 2 (Olic 55, Van Buyten 82)
Nurnberg 1 (Choupo-Moting 73) Att: 69,000

Bochum 2 (Azaouagh 7, Klimowicz 45+)
Mainz 3 (Ivanschitz 45, Schurrle 52, 71) Att: 16,225

Hannover 1 (Ya Konan 48)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Nuri 45) Att: 43,754

Monchengladbach 2 (Arango 10, Colautti 17)
1899 Hoffenheim 4 (Salihovic 21, Maicosuel 86, Obasi 89, Ba 90) Att: 46,511

Stuttgart 0
Koln 2 (Freis 25, Sanou 89) Att: 41,000

Sunday, September 20

Bayer Leverkusen 0
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 30,210

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Russ 32)
Hamburg 1 (Ze Roberto 8) Att: 51,500

Hertha Berlin 0
Freiburg 4 (Banovic 5, 67, Makiadi 12, Idrissou 42) Att: 38,176

Friday, September 25

Nurnberg 0
Bochum 1 (Klimowicz 7) Att: 35,376

Saturday, September 26

Borussia Dortmund 0
Schalke 1 (Farfan 31) Att: 80,552

Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Stuttgart 3 (Schieber 17, 31, Hitzlsperger 54) Att: 49,750

Hamburg 1 (Petric 72)
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 57,000

Koln 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Rolfes 82) Att: 49,300

Werder Bremen 3 (Hunt 38, Pizarro 71, 82)
Mainz 0 Att: 32,875

Wolfsburg 4 (Misimovic 8, Gentner 45, Hasebe 48, Dzeko 62)
Hannover 2 (Balitsch 28, Madlung og 50) Att: 30,000

Sunday, September 27

Freiburg 3 (Idrissou 54, Abdessadki 72, Schuster 80)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 24,000

1899 Hoffenheim 5 (Ibisevic 1, 4, 21, Obasi 58, Carlos Eduardo pen 63)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Raffael 45) Att: 29,600

Friday, October 2

Schalke 2 (Asamoah 66, Farfan pen 90)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 61,673

Saturday, October 3

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Kroos 2, Rolfes pen 28, Derdiyok 34, Kiessling 68)
Nurnberg 0 Att: 26,785

Bayern Munich 0
Koln 0 Att: 69,000

Bochum 1 (Hashemian 53)
Wolfsburg 1 (Martins 75) Att: 21,710

Hannover 5 (Chahed 7, Bruggink 10, Hagui 45, Ya Konan 85, Pinto 90)
Freiburg 2 (Banovic 35, Schuster 82) Att: 28,412

Mainz 2 (Ivanschitz 6, Bance 11)
1899 Hoffenheim 1 (Ibertsberger 87) Att: 20,300

Monchengladbach 0
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Barrios 38) Att: 53,253

Sunday, October 4

Hertha Berlin 1 (Friedrich 9)
Hamburg 3 (Kaka og 24, Jarolim 38, Ze Roberto 40) Att: 49,208

Stuttgart 0
Werder Bremen 2 (Pizarro 3, Hunt 51) Att: 42,000

GERMANY	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Leverkusen	8	6	2	0	18	5	20
Hamburg	8	6	2	0	20	8	20
Schalke	8	5	1	2	11	5	16
Werder	8	4	3	1	14	6	15
Hoffenheim	8	4	2	2	15	7	14
Mainz	8	4	2	2	12	13	14
Wolfsburg	8	4	1	3	16	15	13
Bayern	8	3	3	2	13	7	12
E Frankfurt	8	2	4	2	8	10	10
Freiburg	8	3	1	4	13	17	10
Hannover	8	2	3	3	11	10	9
B Dortmund	8	2	3	3	7	13	9
Stuttgart	8	2	2	4	9	12	8
Bochum	8	2	2	4	9	15	8
M'gladbach	8	2	1	5	9	16	7
Koln	8	1	2	5	5	10	5
Nurnberg	8	1	2	5	4	12	5
Hertha Berlin	8	1	0	7	7	20	3

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 Stefan Kiessling (Bayer Leverkusen)
5 Claudio Pizarro (Werder Bremen)

ITALY

Layun gets his chance

Miguel Layun became the first Mexican to play in Serie A when he appeared for Atalanta in their 1-1 draw with Chievo.

Layun, who was with Mexican second division side Veracruz last season, joined Atalanta in the summer but had to wait until new coach Antonio Conte took charge before making his debut.

Mexican first...Layun

LATVIA

Dinaburg disgraced

The Latvian Football Federation has decided to exclude Dinaburg from the country's top flight after an investigation into match fixing.

The club's president Oleg Gavrilov and coach Tamaz Pertia were banned for life and Dinaburg's opponents for the rest of the season have been awarded 3-0 wins.

Champion...Iversen

NORWAY

Champions with plenty to spare

Rosenborg clinched their first league title for three years with a 2-0 win away to second place Molde. Second-half goals from Steffen Iversen and Trond Olsen secured victory for the Trondheim club with four games remaining.

However, the champions' hopes of completing the whole

GREECE

Sep 19: Kavala 2 Atromitos 1; Panionios 1 Asteras 3; Iraklis 2 Larisa 1.
Sep 20: Levadiakos 2 Ergotelis 2; Giannina 1 AEK 1; Xanthi 1 Panthrakikos 0; Panathinaikos 2 Aris 1; PAOK 1 Olympiakos 2.
Sep 23: Panionios 0 PAOK 0; AEK 1 Olympiakos 2.
Sep 26: Larisa 0 Giannina 0; Olympiakos 1 Panionios 0; Aris 1 Xanthi 0.
Sep 27: Asteras 2 Levadiakos 1; Ergotelis 4 Panthrakikos 0; Atromitos 0 PAOK 0; Kavala 1 Iraklis 0; AEK 0 Panathinaikos 1.
Oct 3: Panthrakikos 1 Aris 1; Giannina 2 Kavala 1; Levadiakos 0 Olympiakos 3.
Oct 5: Asteras 2 Ergotelis 4; Panionios 2 Atromitos 1; PAOK 1 Iraklis 0; Xanthi 1 AEK 0; Panathinaikos 4 Larisa 0.

GREECE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	6	6	0	0	12	1	18
Olympiakos	6	5	1	0	10	2	16
Ergotelis	6	3	2	1	12	8	11
Asteras	6	3	2	1	9	7	11
Aris	6	3	2	1	7	5	11
Kavala	6	3	1	2	5	4	10
PAOK	6	2	3	1	6	3	9
Giannina	6	2	3	1	6	4	9
Iraklis	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
AEK	6	2	1	3	4	5	7
Xanthi	6	2	1	3	3	4	7
Panionios	6	1	2	3	4	7	5
Levadiakos	6	1	1	4	4	11	4
Larisa	6	0	3	3	3	10	3
Atromitos	6	0	2	4	4	8	2
Panthrakikos	6	0	1	5	2	11	1

HOLLAND

Sep 18: Willem II 2 Groningen 1.
Sep 19: Heracles 1 Sparta 1; Roda JC 2 NAC 0; Vitesse 3 RKC 1; AZ 0 NEC 1.
Sep 20: Den Haag 0 Utrecht 1; Heerenveen 0 Twente 2; Feyenoord 1 PSV 3; VVV 0 Ajax 4.
Sep 26: Utrecht 1 AZ 0; PSV 3 Willem II 1; RKC 4 Roda JC 1; Twente 2 VVV 1.
Sep 27: Ajax 3 Den Haag 0; Groningen 1 Vitesse 0; Sparta 0 Heerenveen 2; NAC 0 Feyenoord 2; NEC 0 Heracles 2.
Sep 30: NEC 1 Utrecht 1.
Oct 2: Vitesse 2 Sparta 0.
Oct 3: Den Haag 1 Groningen 1; AZ 1 NAC 0; Willem II 1 NEC 1; Feyenoord 3 RKC 0.
Oct 4: Roda JC 2 Ajax 2; Heracles 1 Twente 3; Heerenveen 1 VVV 1; Utrecht 0 PSV 0.

HOLLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Twente	9	7	2	0	17	7	23
PSV	9	6	3	0	22	10	21
Ajax	9	6	2	1	27	7	20
Feyenoord	9	6	2	1	17	6	20
Utrecht	9	5	3	1	11	6	18
AZ	9	5	0	4	16	8	15
Vitesse	9	3	2	4	13	14	11
Den Haag	9	3	2	4	11	12	11
Heracles	9	3	2	4	8	11	11
NEC	9	2	4	3	10	11	10
NAC	9	3	1	5	7	16	10
VVV	9	1	6	2	13	17	9
Groningen	9	2	3	4	8	12	9
Roda JC	9	2	3	4	10	18	9
Heerenveen	9	2	2	5	5	12	8
Sparta	9	2	2	5	4	12	8
Willem II	9	2	1	6	11	15	7
RKC	9	1	0	8	7	23	3

HUNGARY

Sep 18: Gyor 1 Zalaegerszeg 1.
Sep 19: MTK 4 Kaposvar 0; Ujpest 3 Nyiregyhaza 1; Szombathely 3 Kecskemet 3; Diosgyor 1 Honved 2; Papa 4 Vasas 1; Fehervar 3 Paks 0.
Sep 20: Debrecen 2 Ferencvaros 1.
Sep 25: Kaposvar 4 Debrecen 4; Ferencvaros 2 Fehervar 2.
Sep 26: Vasas 2 MTK 0; Nyiregyhaza 1 Gyor 3; Honved 1 Papa 3; Szombathely 2 Diosgyor 1; Zalaegerszeg 3 Kecskemet 2.
Sep 27: Paks 1 Ujpest 0.
Oct 2: Honved 3 Vasas 3.
Oct 3: Diosgyor 1 Zalaegerszeg 1; Gyor 3 Paks 1; Fehervar 2 Kaposvar 0; Ujpest 2 Ferencvaros 1; Papa 1 Szombathely 3.
Oct 4: Kecskemet 2 Nyiregyhaza 2.

HUNGARY	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fehervar	10	7	1	2	26	15	22
Gyor	10	6	2	2	16	8	20
Ujpest	10	6	2	2	18	11	20
Papa	10	6	0	4	16	10	18
MTK	9	5	2	2	15	9	17
Debrecen	7	5	1	1	14	8	16
Vasas	10	5	1	4	16	22	16
Kecskemet	10	3	2	5	20	24	11
Szombathely	10	3	2	5	17	22	11
Paks	10	3	2	5	9	14	11
Zalaegerszeg	9	3	2	4	11	18	11
Ferencvaros	10	2	4	4	14	15	10
Nyiregyhaza	10	2	3	5	17	19	9
Kaposvar	10	2	3	5	12	17	9
Honved	9	2	2	5	11	16	8
Diosgyor	10	2	1	7	13	17	7

ICELAND

Sep 15: Fram 3 Fjolnir 1.
Sep 16: Breidablik 0 KR 2; Keflavik 1 Grindavik 0.
Sep 19: IBV 2 Fylkir 3.
Sep 20: Throttur 2 Keflavik 2; Grindavik 1 Fram 3; Fjolnir 0 Breidablik 2; KR 7 Stjarnan 3; FH 2 Valur 0.
Sep 26: Stjarnan 1 Fjolnir 1; Breidablik 3 Grindavik 0; Fram 0 Throttur 1; Keflavik 6 IBV 1; Fylkir 1 FH 1; Valur 2 KR 5.

ICELAND – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FH	22	16	3	3	57	21	51
KR	22	15	3	4	58	31	48
Fylkir	22	13	4	5	41	26	43
Fram	22	10	4	8	40	32	34
Breidablik	22	10	4	8	38	33	34
Keflavik	22	8	9	5	38	37	33
Stjarnan	22	7	5	10	45	44	26
Valur	22	7	4	11	26	43	25
Grindavik	22	6	4	12	34	44	22
IBV	22	6	4	12	24	45	22
Throttur (R)	22	4	4	14	23	48	16
Fjolnir (R)	22	3	6	13	27	47	15

Promoted: Selfoss, Haukar

ISRAEL

Sep 21: Hapoel Tel Aviv 1 Maccabi Haifa 2.
Sep 26: Hapoel Haifa 3 Maccabi Tel Aviv 1; Bnei Yehuda 2 Bnei Sakhnin 1; Acre 0 Ahi Nazareth 1; Ra'anana 1 Ashdod 1; Ramat Gan 1 Netanya 0; Maccabi Petach Tikva 3 Be'er Sheva 0; Beitar 3 Hapoel Petach Tikva 0.
Oct 3: Maccabi Haifa 2 Maccabi Petach Tikva 0; Ashdod 0 Ramat Gan 0; Ahi Nazareth 2 Ra'anana 1; Maccabi Tel Aviv 1 Acre 1; Bnei Sakhnin 0 Hapoel Haifa 3; Hapoel Petach Tikva 1 Bnei Yehuda 1.
Oct 4: Netanya 0 Hapoel Tel Aviv 3.
Oct 5: Be'er Sheva 3 Beitar 2.

ISRAEL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
M Haifa	5	5	0	0	12	4	15
H Haifa	5	4	0	1	11	4	12
Bnei Yehuda	5	3	2	0	8	2	11
Beitar	5	2	2	1	8	4	8
H Tel Aviv	5	2	2	1	8	4	8
M Tel Aviv	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Ashdod	5	2	2	1	3	4	8
Be'er Sheva	5	2	1	2	8	11	7
Ramat Gan	5	1	3	1	5	6	6
Ahi Nazareth	5	2	0	3	5	8	6
M Petach Tikva	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Bnei Sakhnin	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
H Petach Tikva	5	1	1	3	3	9	4
Acre	5	0	2	3	3	6	2
Ra'anana	5	0	2	3	5	9	2
Netanya	5	0	2	3	3	8	2

ITALY

Saturday, September 19

Juventus 2 (Iaquinta 8, Marchisio 30)
Livorno 0 Att: 22,780

Napoli 0
Udinese 0 Att: 30,000

Sunday, September 20

Bari 4 (Rivas 7, Barreto 9, Alvarez 39, Donati 61)
Atalanta 1 (Bellini 84) Att: 16,717

Cagliari 1 (Jeda pen 16)
Inter 2 (Milito 51, 55) Att: 22,000

Catania 1 (Martinez 12)
Lazio 1 (Cruz 57) Att: 12,150

Chievo 3 (Marcolini pen 5, Bogdani 7, Pellissier 76)
Genoa 1 (Floccari pen 65) Att: 9,557

Milan 1 (Seedorf 75)
Bologna 0 Att: 35,713

Parma 1 (Zaccardo 17)
Palermo 0 Att: 14,815

Roma 3 (Totti pen 27, 33, De Rossi 41)
Fiorentina 1 (Gilardino 84) Att: 33,378

Sampdoria 4 (Palombo 23, Mannini 31, Padalino 48, 85)
Siena 1 (Fini 68) Att: 22,859

Wednesday, September 23

Atalanta 0
Catania 0 Att: 10,000

Bari 0
Cagliari 1 (Nene 77) Att: 10,000

Bologna 2 (Portanova 35, Di Vaio 53)
Livorno 0 Att: 16,000

Fiorentina 2 (Jovetic 25, Gilardino 66)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 26,307

Inter 3 (Eto'o 2, Milito 5, Lucio 32)
Napoli 1 (Lavezzi 37) Att: 45,000

Lazio 1 (Zarate pen 42)
Parma 2 (Bojinov 21, Amoruso pen 45) Att: 15,000

Palermo 3 (Budan 40, Miccoli 45+, Nocerino 56)
Roma 3 (Brighi 20, Burdisso 45, Totti pen 88) Att: 25,000

Siena 0
Chievo 0 Att: 9,000

Udinese 1 (Di Natale 22)
Milan 0 Att: 25,000

Thursday, September 24

Genoa 2 (Mesto 31, Crespo 75)
Juventus 2 (Iaquinta 6, Trezeguet 86) Att: 31,882

Saturday, September 26

Livorno 0
Fiorentina 1 (Jovetic pen 76) Att: 11,915

Sampdoria 1 (Pazzini 72)
Inter 0 Att: 30,000

Sunday, September 27

Catania 1 (Morimoto 22)
Roma 1 (De Rossi 90) Att: 12,660

Chievo 1 (Pellissier 77)
Atalanta 1 (Tiribocchi 72) Att: 7,657

Juventus 1 (Trezeguet 24)
Bologna 1 (Adailton 90) Att: 24,456

Lazio 1 (Zarate 84)
Palermo 1 (Cavani 75) Att: 15,000

Milan 0
Bari 0 Att: 37,354

Napoli 2 (Hamsik 49, 64)
Siena 1 (Maccarone 56) Att: 40,209

Parma 0
Cagliari 2 (Jeda 8, Dessena 58) Att: 15,078

Udinese 2 (Di Natale 81, Pepe 88)
Genoa 0 Att: 14,250

Saturday, October 3

Bari 0
Catania 0 Att: 17,000

Inter 2 (Stankovic 22, Sneijder 90)
Udinese 1 (Di Natale 27) Att: 50,000

Sunday, October 4

Atalanta 1 (Tiribocchi 21)
Milan 1 (Ronaldinho 84) Att: 15,000

Bologna 1 (Di Vaio pen 85)
Genoa 3 (Kharja pen 11, Sculli 36, Zapater 90) Att: 23,000

Cagliari 1 (Matri 38)
Chievo 2 (Marcolini 41, 71) Att: 12,000

Fiorentina 0
Lazio 0 Att: 26,436

Palermo 2 (Cavani 37, Simplicio 42)
Juventus 0 Att: 32,000

Roma 2 (Totti 37, 63)
Napoli 1 (Lavezzi 25) Att: 27,119

History boy...Le Cong Vinh

league season without losing a single game were shattered by two late goals when, in their very next outing, IK Start came from 2-1 down to snatch all three points.

PORTUGAL

Vietnamese makes his first appearance

Le Cong Vinh created a little piece of history when he became the first Vietnamese player to appear in Portugal's top flight as he made his debut for Leixoes in their 3-2 home win over Uniao Leiria. The 23-year-old striker is currently on a four-month loan from T&T Hanoi.

A 2-1 defeat at home to Naval cost Carlos Carvalhal his job as Maritimo coach. In their next game, Maritimo won 4-2 away to Academica – who then sacked their coach, Rogerio Goncalves.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Rovers overtake Bohs

Shamrock Rovers beat Bohemians 1-0 to go two points clear of the reigning champions with six games of the season remaining.

Padraig Amond scored the winner, but Bohs' Jason Byrne missed a golden chance to equalise when he put his penalty over the bar.

Missed...Byrne

Sampdoria 1 (Pazzini 23)
Parma 1 (Galloppa 30) Att: 26,000

Siena 0
Livorno 0 Att: 9,000

ITALY	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	7	5	1	1	14	5	16
Sampdoria	7	5	1	1	12	6	16
Juventus	7	4	2	1	11	6	14
Fiorentina	7	4	2	1	7	4	14
Genoa	7	4	1	2	14	11	13
Chievo	7	3	2	2	9	6	11
Udinese	7	3	2	2	11	9	11
Roma	7	3	2	2	14	13	11
Parma	7	3	2	2	8	9	11
Palermo	7	2	3	2	9	8	9
Lazio	7	2	3	2	6	7	9
Milan	7	2	3	2	4	7	9
Bari	7	1	5	1	6	4	8
Cagliari	7	2	1	4	6	8	7
Napoli	7	2	1	4	9	13	7
Bologna	7	1	3	3	5	8	6
Siena	7	1	2	4	7	11	5
Catania	7	0	4	3	6	10	4
Atalanta	7	0	3	4	3	9	3
Livorno	7	0	3	4	1	8	3

LEADING GOALSCORERS

9	Antonio Di Natale (Udinese)
6	Francesco Totti (Roma)
5	Marek Hamsik (Napoli)
5	Diego Milito (Inter)
4	Giampaolo Pazzini (Sampdoria)
4	Sergio Pellissier (Chievo)

LATVIA

Sep 17: Dinaburg 2 Tranzits 1; Skonto 4 Blazma 0; Metalurgs 3 Olimps/RFS 0.
Sep 20: Tranzits 1 Skonto 3; Olimps/RFS 0 Ventspils 2; Jurmala 0 Dinaburg 1.
Sep 23: Tranzits 0 Ventspils 1.
Sep 26: Daugava 0 Olimps/RFS 5; Skonto 3 Jurmala 2; Blazma 0 Ventspils 2; Metalurgs 4 Tranzits 0.
Sep 30: Blazma 1 Tranzits 1; Olimps/RFS 2 Jurmala 0.
Oct 3: Blazma 4 Daugava 0; Jurmala 1 Metalurgs 4.
Oct 4: Skonto 0 Ventspils 0.

LATVIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Metalurgs	27	21	3	3	75	18	66
Ventspils	27	20	4	3	73	17	64
Skonto	27	20	3	4	80	21	63
Jurmala	28	10	4	14	34	52	34
Olimps/RFS	29	9	4	16	44	55	31
Blazma	28	5	5	18	22	65	20
Tranzits	30	2	10	18	20	59	16
Daugava	26	1	5	20	18	89	8

Dinaburg expelled from league for alleged match-fixing; all remaining fixtures will be awarded as 3-0 wins to their opponents

LITHUANIA

Sep 16: Vetra 0 Ekranas 0.
Sep 20: Kruoja 1 Siauliai 3; Suduva 0 Tauras 0; Vetra 2 Banga 0; Ekranas 3 LKKA 0.
Sep 27: LKKA 2 Kruoja 1; Tauras 0 Vetra 0; Siauliai 1 Suduva 1; Ekranas 5 Banga 1.
Sep 30: Ekranas 1 Vetra 1.
Oct 3: LKKA 1 Banga 2.
Oct 4: Kruoja 0 Suduva 1; Vetra 5 Siauliai 2; Ekranas 1 Tauras 0.

LITHUANIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vetra	25	16	7	2	51	17	55
Ekranas	25	15	9	1	49	17	54
Suduva	24	12	10	2	44	15	46
Siauliai	25	11	3	11	33	30	36
Tauras	25	8	7	10	21	21	31
Banga	25	6	6	13	23	44	24
LKKA	24	4	3	17	16	48	15
Kruoja	25	2	5	18	20	65	11

MACEDONIA

Sep 18: Rabotnicki 1 Sileks 1.
Sep 19: Renova 2 Pobeda 1; Milano 1 Teteks 5.
Sep 20: Metalurg 0 Makedonija 0; Pelister 1 Turnovo 2.
Sep 21: Sloga 1 Vardar 0.
Sep 26: Makedonija 8 Milano 0.
Sep 27: Turnovo 2 Renova 2; Sileks 1 Pelister 0; Teteks 0 Rabotnicki 1; Vardar 0 Metalurg 0; Pobeda 2 Sloga 0.
Oct 3: Rabotnicki 1 Makedonija 1.
Oct 4: Renova 3 Sloga 1; Metalurg 2 Pobeda 1; Milano 0 Vardar 4; Pelister 3 Teteks 1; Turnovo 2 Sileks 0.

MACEDONIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rabotnicki	8	5	3	0	13	4	18
Renova	8	5	2	1	15	9	17
Turnovo	8	4	3	1	13	8	15
Makedonija	8	3	4	1	20	5	13
Sileks	8	3	4	1	13	9	13
Pelister	8	3	2	3	10	10	11
Metalurg	8	1	6	1	7	7	9
Vardar	8	2	3	3	10	11	9
Teteks	8	2	2	4	12	12	8
Sloga	8	2	2	4	6	12	8
Pobeda*	8	1	3	4	8	12	3
Milano	8	0	0	8	2	30	0

**3pts deducted for not paying a debt to a former player*

MOLDOVA

Sep 16: Olimpia 0 Zimbru 0.
Sep 20: Academia 1 Dinamo 1; Dacia 1 Iskra-Stal 2; Viitorul 1 Sfintul Gheorghe 0; Zimbru 0 CSCA-Rapid 1; Tiraspol 0 Olimpia 1.
Sep 22: Nistru 0 Sheriff 1.
Sep 26: Dinamo 2 CSCA-Rapid 1; Zimbru 1 Sheriff 0; Nistru 2 Sfintul Gheorghe 0; Viitorul 0 Olimpia 1; Dacia 1 Academia 0; Tiraspol 0 Iskra-Stal 0.
Oct 4: Dacia 3 Dinamo 2; Academia 1 Tiraspol 1; Olimpia 3 Nistru 0.

MOLDOVA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iskra-Stal	12	9	1	2	20	10	28
Dacia	13	8	3	2	23	11	27
Olimpia	12	6	3	3	16	5	21
Sheriff	9	6	1	2	22	2	19
CSCA-Rapid	12	5	2	5	15	23	17
Zimbru	11	4	4	3	12	11	16
Tiraspol	13	3	5	5	8	11	14
Academia	12	3	5	4	14	18	14
Dinamo	13	4	1	8	17	26	13
S Gheorghe	12	3	1	8	9	16	10
Viitorul	12	2	4	6	7	17	10
Nistru	13	2	4	7	8	21	10

NORWAY

Sep 19: Odd Grenland 1 Stabaek 2; Aalesund 3 Brann 0.
Sep 20: Lillestrom 2 Bodo/Glimt 2; Tromso 1 Molde 0; Rosenborg 4 Sandefjord 0; Stromsgodset 4 Fredrikstad 1; Valerenga 4 Lyn 1.
Sep 21: Start 1 Viking 1.
Sep 23: Rosenborg 0 Tromso 0.
Sep 26: Fredrikstad 1 Lillestrom 0.
Sep 27: Stabaek 3 Stromsgodset 1; Lyn 0 Tromso 1; Viking 1 Aalesund 1; Sandefjord 1 Start 0; Bodo/Glimt 0 Valerenga 2; Molde 0 Rosenborg 2.
Sep 28: Brann 4 Odd Grenland 2.
Oct 3: Stromsgodset 3 Bodo/Glimt 0; Odd Grenland 2 Molde 1.
Oct 4: Aalesund 1 Sandefjord 1; Stabaek 2 Fredrikstad 1; Lillestrom 2 Lyn 1; Tromso 0 Brann 2; Rosenborg 2 Start 3.
Oct 5: Valerenga 3 Viking 1.

NORWAY	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	27	19	7	1	57	20	64
Molde	27	14	5	8	53	34	47
Stabaek	27	13	8	6	47	29	47
Brann	27	12	7	8	48	43	43
Odd Grenland	27	11	9	7	48	39	42
Valerenga	27	11	4	12	44	45	37
Start	27	9	10	8	43	48	37
Tromso	27	9	9	9	31	33	36
Sandefjord	27	9	9	9	34	38	36
Viking	27	8	10	9	36	38	34
Lillestrom	27	8	9	10	38	44	33
Aalesund	27	8	8	11	31	40	32
Stromsgodset	27	8	5	14	36	40	29
Fredrikstad	27	8	4	15	30	42	28
Bodo/Glimt	27	6	8	13	27	49	26
Lyn	27	2	10	15	28	49	16

POLAND

Sep 18: Zaglebie 1 Belchatow 1; Legia 2 Lechia 0.
Sep 19: Arka 0 Polonia Warsaw 0; Korona 1 Slask 1; Lech 1 Odra 0; Ruch 2 Cracovia 0.
Sep 20: Piast 0 Jagiellonia 0; Wisla 1 Polonia Bytom 1.
Sep 25: Lechia 1 Zaglebie 0; Legia 2 Lech 0.
Sep 26: Odra 0 Belchatow 1; Korona 3 Piast 2; Wisla 2 Polonia Warsaw 1; Jagiellonia 0 Cracovia 0.
Sep 27: Slask 0 Ruch 0; Polonia Bytom 3 Arka 1.
Oct 2: Cracovia 1 Zaglebie 1; Slask 1 Wisla 3.
Oct 3: Odra 1 Ruch 3; Jagiellonia 2 Legia 0; Belchatow 1 Korona 0; Polonia Bytom 1 Lechia 1.
Oct 4: Polonia Warsaw 0 Piast 2; Arka 1 Lech 1.

POLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla	9	8	1	0	19	5	25
Ruch	9	6	1	2	12	5	19
Polonia B	9	5	2	2	13	6	17
Legia	9	5	2	2	10	3	17
Lech	9	4	2	3	17	13	14
Lechia	9	4	2	3	12	10	14
Piast	9	4	1	4	12	14	13
Belchatow	9	3	3	3	8	10	12
Korona	9	3	2	4	11	13	11
Slask	9	2	4	3	9	11	10
Cracovia	9	1	5	3	6	13	8
Polonia W	9	2	1	6	8	16	7
Arka	9	1	3	5	6	10	6
Odra	9	2	0	7	6	12	6
Jagiellonia*	9	4	3	2	12	7	5
Zaglebie	9	1	2	6	5	18	5

**10pts deducted for the club's involvement in a corruption scandal*

PORTUGAL

Sep 18: Leixoes 3 Guimaraes 1.
Sep 19: Pacos Ferreira 1 Rio Ave 1; Sporting Braga 1 Porto 0.
Sep 20: Academica 1 Belenenses 1; Naval 0 Setubal 1; Nacional 2 Maritimo 1; Uniao Leiria 1 Benfica 2.
Sep 21: Sporting Lisbon 3 Olhanense 2.
Sep 25: Olhanense 0 Sporting Braga 1.
Sep 26: Rio Ave 0 Academica 0; Maritimo 1 Naval 2; Setubal 0 Pacos Ferreira 1; Porto 1 Sporting Lisbon 0; Benfica 5 Leixoes 0.
Sep 28: Guimaraes 2 Uniao Leiria 2.
Oct 2: Academica 2 Maritimo 4.
Oct 3: Naval 3 Rio Ave 2; Sporting Braga 2 Setubal 0.
Oct 4: Leixoes 3 Uniao Leiria 2; Sporting Lisbon 0 Belenenses 0; Olhanense 0 Porto 3.
Oct 5: Nacional 2 Guimaraes 0; Pacos Ferreira 1 Benfica 3.

PORTUGAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S Braga	7	7	0	0	12	3	21
Benfica	7	6	1	0	24	4	19
Porto	7	5	1	1	15	4	16
Sporting L	7	3	2	2	8	6	11
Rio Ave	7	2	4	1	7	5	10
Maritimo	7	2	2	3	9	9	8
Nacional	6	2	2	2	6	8	8
Leixoes	7	2	2	3	7	13	8
Uniao Leiria	7	1	4	2	10	8	7
P Ferreira	7	1	4	2	5	7	7
Naval	7	2	1	4	6	12	7
Guimaraes	7	1	3	3	6	8	6
Olhanense	7	1	3	3	5	9	6
Belenenses	6	1	3	2	4	8	6
Setubal	7	1	1	5	2	16	4
Academica	7	0	3	4	5	11	3

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Sep 18: Drogheda 1 Derry 3; Bohemians 3 Dundalk 2; Galway 2 St Patrick's 1.
Sep 19: Shamrock 3 Bray 1.
Sep 25: St Patrick's 1 Cork 1; Bray 1 Drogheda 2; Dundalk 3 Galway 0.
Sep 26: Sligo 1 Shamrock 2.
Sep 28: Bray 0 St Patrick's 1.
Sep 29: Cork 0 Sligo 0; Derry 0 Bohemians 1.
Oct 2: Galway 3 Bray 1; Drogheda 2 Dundalk 2; Shamrock 1 Bohemians 0.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shamrock	30	18	9	3	42	21	63
Bohemians	30	19	4	7	47	18	61
Derry	29	15	5	9	40	22	50
Cork	29	14	7	8	32	19	49
Dundalk	30	12	5	13	39	40	41
Galway	30	11	4	15	30	45	37
St Patrick's	29	10	3	16	23	38	33
Drogheda	30	6	10	14	26	39	28
Sligo	29	6	9	14	28	44	27
Bray	30	5	8	17	25	46	23

ROMANIA

Sep 18: International 0 Politehnica 2; Astra 4 Alba Iulia 2.
Sep 19: Otelul 0 Gaz Metan 1; Ceahlaul 2 Gloria Bistrita 1; Universitatea 3 Rapid 4.
Sep 20: Steaua 1 Pandurii 0; CFR 2 Brasov 1; Dinamo 2 Urziceni 1; Vaslui 0 Timisoara 1.
Sep 25: Urziceni 4 Astra 1.
Sep 26: Gaz Metan 1 Dinamo 0; Alba Iulia 2 Vaslui 0; Politehnica 2 Ceahlaul 0; Timisoara 1 Universitatea 1.
Sep 27: Pandurii 2 Otelul 3; Gloria Bistrita 0 CFR 2; Brasov 0 Steaua 0; Rapid 4 International 0.
Oct 2: Otelul 1 Brasov 1; Ceahlaul 0 Rapid 4.

On target...Miller

SCOTLAND

Gers beat arch-rivals

Rangers beat rivals Celtic 2-1 in the 385th Old Firm derby. Kenny Miller scored both goals for the home side at Ibrox, but despite suffering their first league defeat of the season Celtic still lead their Glasgow neighbours by a point at the top of the table.

Police launched an investigation into allegations of match fixing following a Scottish Cup first-round tie in which Huntly beat Hawick Royal Albert 7-0.

SPAIN

Youngster on target

Iker Muniain became the youngest-ever goalscorer in the Spanish top flight when, at the age of just 16 years and 289 days, he was on target for Athletic Bilbao as they drew 2-2 away to Valladolid.

Meanwhile, Xerez scored their first goal in top-flight football, but were unable to secure a maiden La Liga victory in the Andalusian derby against Malaga.

Emiliano Armenteros opened the scoring for the bottom side, but Victor Obinna equalised before being sent off in the last minute for a second bookable offence as the game ended 1-1.

Teen star...Muniain

Oct 3: Vaslui 3 Astra 1; Gaz Metan 0 Urziceni 0; Universitatea 3 Alba Iulia 1.
Oct 4: Steaua 1 Gloria Bistrita 1; Dinamo 1 Pandurii 1; CFR 1 Politehnica 1.
Oct 5: International 0 Timisoara 3.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	9	6	0	3	22	11	18
CFR	9	5	2	2	12	6	17
Urziceni	9	5	2	2	12	6	17
Timisoara	9	4	5	0	11	5	17
Brasov	9	4	4	1	11	5	16
Steaua	9	4	3	2	11	7	15
Dinamo	9	4	2	3	9	5	14
Politehnica	9	4	2	3	12	10	14
Vaslui	9	4	1	4	14	13	13
Pandurii	9	4	1	4	10	11	13
Gaz Metan	9	4	1	4	11	13	13
Universitatea	9	3	2	4	15	12	11
Otelul	9	3	2	4	7	10	11
Astra	9	2	3	4	9	13	9
International	9	3	0	6	7	19	9
Alba Iulia	9	2	2	5	11	16	8
Ceahlaul	9	2	1	6	5	16	7
Gloria	9	0	3	6	5	16	3

RUSSIA

Sep 18: Khimki 0 Spartak Nalchik 2.
Sep 19: Saturn 2 Spartak Moscow 1; Rostov 3 Kuban 3; Lokomotiv 1 FC Moscow 0.
Sep 20: Tom 0 Rubin 0; CSKA 3 Dynamo 0; Amkar 1 Terek 0; Krylia Sovetov 0 Zenit 1.
Sep 25: Rubin 1 Amkar 2.
Sep 26: Zenit 2 CSKA 0; Dynamo 1 Saturn 0; FC Moscow 3 Khimki 0.
Sep 27: Terek 2 Lokomotiv 1; Spartak Nalchik 1 Rostov 0; Spartak Moscow 5 Tom 0; Kuban 0 Krylia Sovetov 0.
Oct 3: Krylia Sovetov 0 Spartak Nalchik 0; Khimki 1 Terek 2; Tom 3 Saturn 1; Rostov 2 FC Moscow 2.
Oct 4: CSKA 4 Kuban 0; Lokomotiv 2 Rubin 1; Zenit 2 Dynamo 1; Amkar 1 Spartak Moscow 2.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rubin	24	14	5	5	49	18	47
Spartak M	24	14	4	6	46	25	46
Zenit	24	12	7	5	40	23	43
CSKA	24	13	3	8	39	22	42
Lokomotiv	24	11	8	5	32	23	41
FC Moscow	24	10	8	6	29	19	38
Dynamo	24	10	4	10	24	30	34
Terek	24	9	6	9	30	35	33
Saturn	24	9	5	10	28	34	32
Krylia Sovetov	24	8	6	10	24	29	30
Tom	24	7	7	10	21	33	28
Rostov	24	6	10	8	20	26	28
Amkar	24	7	6	11	24	33	27
Spartak N	24	5	9	10	21	24	24
Kuban	24	5	8	11	18	38	23
Khimki	24	2	4	18	17	50	10

SCOTLAND

Sep 15: Hearts 1 Kilmarnock 0.
Sep 19: Kilmarnock 0 Rangers 0; Aberdeen 1 St Mirren 0; Dundee United 0 Motherwell 1; Hamilton 0 Falkirk 0; Hibernian 3 St Johnstone 0.
Sep 20: Celtic 2 Hearts 1.
Sep 26: St Mirren 0 Celtic 2; Falkirk 0 Kilmarnock 0; Hearts 2 Hamilton 1; Motherwell 1 Hibernian 3; Rangers 0 Aberdeen 0; St Johnstone 2 Dundee United 3.
Oct 3: Hamilton 0 St Johnstone 2; Hibernian 1 Dundee United 1; Kilmarnock 1 Aberdeen 1; Motherwell 1 Falkirk 0; St Mirren 2 Hearts 1.
Oct 4: Rangers 2 Celtic 1.

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	7	5	1	1	15	7	16
Rangers	7	4	3	0	12	4	15
Hibernian	7	4	1	2	12	7	13
Dundee Utd	7	3	3	1	9	6	12
Motherwell	7	3	3	1	8	6	12
Aberdeen	7	2	4	1	6	4	10
St Mirren	7	2	2	3	6	8	8
Hearts	7	2	1	4	8	11	7
Kilmarnock	7	1	3	3	6	7	6
St Johnstone	7	1	3	3	11	16	6
Hamilton	7	1	1	5	4	14	4
Falkirk	7	0	3	4	3	10	3

SERBIA

Sep 19: BSK 2 Cukaricki 0; Spartak 1 Hajduk 1; Jagodina 2 Javor 0; Rad 0 Borac 0; Napredak 0 Mladi Radnik 0; Metalac 2 OFK 1.
Sep 20: Smederevo 0 Red Star 3; Partizan 1 Vojvodina 0.
Sep 26: OFK 1 Smederevo 0; Mladi Radnik 1 Metalac 0; Borac 0 Napredak 1; Javor 2 Rad 2; Cukaricki 0 Spartak 3; Partizan 2 BSK 1.
Sep 27: Vojvodina 0 Red Star 1; Hajduk 1 Jagodina 1.
Oct 3: BSK 0 Vojvodina 4; Jagodina 2 Cukaricki 0; Napredak 1 Javor 1; Metalac 1 Borac 0; Smederevo 0 Mladi Radnik 0; Red Star 2 OFK 1.
Oct 4: Spartak 1 Partizan 1; Rad 1 Hajduk 1.

SERBIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star	7	6	1	0	14	2	19
Partizan	7	4	3	0	12	4	15
Vojvodina	7	4	1	2	12	4	13
OFK	7	4	1	2	8	5	13
Napredak	7	2	4	1	6	4	10
Jagodina	7	3	1	3	8	7	10
Mladi Radnik	7	2	4	1	5	5	10
Spartak	7	2	3	2	7	5	9
Javor	7	2	3	2	6	7	9
Smederevo	7	2	2	3	6	8	8
Rad	7	1	4	2	6	8	7
Hajduk	7	1	4	2	5	8	7
BSK	7	2	1	4	6	11	7
Borac	7	2	1	4	4	9	7
Metalac	7	2	0	5	3	10	6
Cukaricki	7	0	1	6	3	14	1

SLOVAKIA

Sep 16: Slovan 2 Zilina 1.
Sep 19: Senica 0 Nitra 0; Slovan 3 Dukla 0; Ruzomberok 2 Petrzalka 0; Spartak 1 Dubnica 0; Zilina 1 DAC 0.
Sep 20: Kosice 0 Tatran 1.
Sep 26: Dukla 1 Zilina 0; Nitra 0 Slovan 1; Dubnica 1 Kosice 0; Tatran 1 Ruzomberok 0.
Sep 27: DAC 2 Spartak 1; Petrzalka 1 Senica 2.
Oct 3: Senica 0 Slovan 2; Dubnica 1 Ruzomberok 2; DAC 1 Kosice 1; Dukla 1 Spartak 0; Nitra 0 Zilina 1; Tatran 2 Petrzalka 0.

SLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan	11	8	2	1	21	7	26
Zilina	12	8	1	3	14	6	25
Dukla	12	6	4	2	14	9	22
Nitra	12	6	3	3	11	6	21
Senica	12	5	2	5	11	18	17
Spartak	12	5	1	6	16	15	16
Tatran	12	5	1	6	11	11	16
DAC	11	4	2	5	11	12	14
Ruzomberok	12	3	3	6	11	16	12
Petrzalka	12	3	3	6	7	13	12
Dubnica	12	2	4	6	9	14	10
Kosice	12	2	2	8	10	19	8

SLOVENIA

Sep 19: Koper 3 Nafta 1; Interblock 2 Maribor 1; Celje 2 Domzale 3; Gorica 1 Rudar 3.
Sep 20: Drava 0 Olimpija 3.
Sep 23: Drava 2 Domzale 1; Nafta 5 Rudar 2; Interblock 0 Olimpija 1; Gorica 2 Maribor 3; Celje 0 Koper 1.
Sep 26: Koper 0 Drava 0; Celje 2 Nafta 2.
Sep 27: Olimpija 1 Gorica 1; Maribor 0 Rudar 2; Domzale 1 Interblock 0.
Oct 3: Nafta 2 Maribor 4; Interblock 0 Koper 1; Gorica 1 Domzale 1; Rudar 0 Olimpija 3.
Oct 4: Drava 0 Celje 1.

SLOVENIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Koper	12	9	3	0	20	9	30
Rudar	12	8	1	3	21	14	25
Olimpija*	12	7	1	4	21	12	20
Celje	12	5	2	5	16	17	17
Maribor	12	5	1	6	19	18	16
Interblock	12	4	2	6	13	13	14
Drava	12	3	4	5	12	18	13
Domzale	12	3	4	5	15	23	13
Nafta	12	3	2	7	19	25	11
Gorica	12	2	2	8	15	22	8

**2pts deducted for missing a game during last season's second level campaign*

SPAIN

Saturday, September 19

Barcelona 5 (Ibrahimovic 2, Messi 16, 90, Daniel Alves 30, Keita 41)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Aguero 45, Forlan 84) Att: 75,928

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Adrian 28, Nouioui 77)
Espanyol 3 (Callejon 20, Forlin 43, Verdu 54) Att: 16,000

Malaga 1 (Duda 72)
Racing Santander 2 (Arana 37, Morris 80) Att: 20,000

Mallorca 4 (Mario Suarez 17, Aduriz 51, Julio Alvarez 59, Webo pen 88)
Tenerife 0 Att: 12,000

Osasuna 0
Sevilla 2 (Negredo 37, Kanoute 71) Att: 16,670

Sunday, September 20

Almeria 1 (Michel 48)
Getafe 0 Att: 9,000

Athletic Bilbao 3 (Llorente 11, 40, Javi Martinez 59)
Villarreal 2 (Cani 49, Cazorla 85) Att: 32,000

Real Madrid 5 (Cristiano Ronaldo 1, 75, Guti 78, Benzema 82, Van Nistelrooy 89)
Xerez 0 Att: 75,000

Valencia 2 (Villa 24, 60)
Sporting Gijon 2 (Barral 7, Gregory 86) Att: 40,000

Zaragoza 1 (Jorge Lopez 26)
Valladolid 2 (Marquitos 4, Sisi 56) Att: 27,000

Tuesday, September 22

Racing Santander 1 (Serrano 72)
Barcelona 4 (Ibrahimovic 20, Messi 24, 63, Pique 27) Att: 22,000

Sevilla 2 (Squillaci 17, Perotti 25)
Mallorca 0 Att: 48,000

Wednesday, September 23

Atletico Madrid 2 (Cleber Santana 28, Forlan 56)
Almeria 2 (Piatti 26, 90) Att: 45,000

Espanyol 2 (Sahar 55, Ivan Alonso 81)
Malaga 1 (Fernando 28) Att: 22,000

Getafe 3 (Manu 23, 38, Pedro Leon 69)
Valencia 1 (Villa 22) Att: 10,000

Tenerife 1 (Mikel Alonso 87)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 20,600

Valladolid 1 (Diego Costa 48)
Osasuna 2 (Pandiani 25, Galan 72) Att: 14,494

Villarreal 0
Real Madrid 2 (Cristiano Ronaldo 2, Kaka pen 73) Att: 23,000

Xerez 0
Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Juca 26, Gioda og 71, Riki 79) Att: 15,000

Thursday, September 24

Sporting Gijon 1 (Diego Castro 29)
Zaragoza 1 (Abel Aguilar 54) Att: 18,000

Saturday, September 26

Athletic Bilbao 0
Sevilla 4 (Renato 5, Negredo 21, Kanoute 45, Jesus Navas 75) Att: 38,000

Malaga 0
Barcelona 2 (Ibrahimovic 39, Pique 59) Att: 25,000

Real Madrid 3 (Benzema 47, 58, Kaka 77)
Tenerife 0 Att: 79,000

Valencia 2 (Pablo 25, Villa 27)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Aguero 7, Rodriguez 90) Att: 45,000

Sunday, September 27

Almeria 2 (Crusat 17, Uche 89)
Racing Santander 2 (Tchite 59, Lacen 71) Att: 9,000

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Juca 8)
Villarreal 0 Att: 14,000

Espanyol 0
Xerez 0 Att: 28,420

Mallorca 3 (Nunes 4, Aduriz 70, Borja Valero 72)
Valladolid 0 Att: 12,809

Osasuna 1 (Nekounam pen 56)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 15,000

TURKEY

Fener eight out of eight

Fenerbahce continued their perfect start to the league season with their 3-0 victory over Genclerbirligi to keep them five points clear of Istanbul rivals Galatasaray.

And defender Roberto Carlos has said he would love to return to Real Madrid – and play for free – when his deal with the Turkish outfit expires.

Tempting offer...Roberto Carlos

BRAZIL

Flu find some relief in continental competition

The Sudamericana Cup provided a little much-needed respite for struggling Rio side Fluminense who advanced to the quarter-finals of the competition after beating Alianza Atletico.

Having drawn the first leg of their last-16 tie in Peru, the Brazilians won 4-1 in the return against visitors who finished the game with eight men as the referee sent off Marcio Valverde, Ruben Mori and Rafael Farfan. Flu defender Luiz Alberto also received a red card.

Valverde opened the scoring for Alianza from the penalty spot in the second leg, before Fluminense rallied and secured victory with goals from Dario Conca, Alan and Adeilson (twice).

Going through..Flu's Diguinho

Zaragoza 3 (Pavon 17, Abel Aguilar 24, 81)
Getafe 0 Att: 24,000

Saturday, October 3
Atletico Madrid 2 (Jurado 2, Antonio Lopez 65)
Zaragoza 1 (Ewerthon pen 72) Att: 30,000

Barcelona 1 (Pedro 31)
Almeria 0 Att: 74,177

Tenerife 0
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Colotto 60) Att: 24,000

Sunday, October 4
Getafe 2 (Cata Diaz 55, Pedro Leon 76)
Osasuna 1 (Aranda 62) Att: 11,800

Racing Santander 0
Valencia 1 (Zigic 60) Att: 16,000

Sevilla 2 (Jesus Navas 33, Renato 66)
Real Madrid 1 (Pepe 49) Att: 45,000

Sporting Gijon 4 (Luis Moran 58, De las Cuevas 64, 68, Bilic 82)
Mallorca 1 (Marti pen 12) Att: 20,000

Valladolid 2 (Diego Costa 60, Nivaldo 75)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Susaeta 10, Muniain 77) Att: 19,800

Villarreal 0
Espanyol 0 Att: 16,000

Xerez 1 (Armenteros 46)
Malaga 1 (Obinna 83) Att: 17,430

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	6	6	0	0	17	3	18
Real Madrid	6	5	0	1	17	4	15
Sevilla	6	5	0	1	14	4	15
Dep Coruna	6	4	0	2	10	6	12
Valencia	6	3	2	1	12	9	11
Mallorca	6	3	1	2	11	7	10
Ath Bilbao	6	3	1	2	7	9	10
Getafe	6	3	0	3	9	9	9
Sporting Gijon	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
Espanyol	6	2	2	2	5	7	8
Zaragoza	6	2	1	3	8	9	7
Osasuna	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Almeria	6	1	3	2	5	6	6
At Madrid	6	1	3	2	9	14	6
Tenerife	6	2	0	4	3	10	6
Valladolid	6	1	2	3	7	12	5
R Santander	6	1	2	3	7	13	5
Malaga	6	1	1	4	6	8	4
Villarreal	6	0	3	3	4	8	3
Xerez	6	0	2	4	1	12	2

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 David Villa (Valencia)
5 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
5 Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Barcelona)
5 Lionel Messi (Barcelona)

SWEDEN

Sep 15: Orgryte 2 Halmstads 1.
Sep 17: GAIS 4 Gefle 0.
Sep 19: Halmstads 2 Helsingborgs 1.
Sep 20: Brommapojkarna 1 Djurgardens 4; Kalmar 1 Orebro 3; Trelleborgs 2 Hacken 2; IFK 2 Hammarby 0.
Sep 21: Malmo 5 Elfsborg 0; AIK 3 Orgryte 0.
Sep 23: Hammarby 1 GAIS 2; Hacken 0 Kalmar 0; Orebro 0 IFK 0.
Sep 24: Elfsborg 1 Brommapojkarna 0; Helsingborgs 3 AIK 2; Djurgardens 0 Halmstads 2; Gefle 0 Malmo 3; Orgryte 0 Trelleborgs 2.
Sep 26: Kalmar 2 IFK 1.
Sep 27: Malmo 3 Hammarby 1; Trelleborgs 4 Helsingborgs 2.
Sep 28: GAIS 3 Orebro 0; AIK 2 Djurgardens 0; Halmstads 1 Elfsborg 2.
Sep 29: Brommapojkarna 1 Gefle 0; Hacken 2 Orgryte 0.
Oct 3: Djurgardens 0 Trelleborgs 0; Orgryte 4 Kalmar 2.
Oct 4: Hammarby 1 Brommapojkarna 0; Gefle 1 Halmstads 0; Helsingborgs 1 Hacken 0; Orebro 0 Malmo 3; Elfsborg 0 AIK 0.
Oct 5: IFK 2 GAIS 1.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIK	26	15	6	5	30	17	51
IFK	26	15	5	6	46	20	50
Elfsborg	26	13	8	5	39	32	47
Kalmar	26	13	6	7	45	30	45
Helsingborgs	26	13	3	10	38	32	42
Malmo	26	11	8	7	34	17	41
Hacken	26	11	7	8	39	28	40
Orebro	26	11	7	8	29	26	40
Trelleborgs	26	10	7	9	35	28	37
Gefle	26	9	7	10	24	34	34
GAIS	26	7	9	10	35	33	30
Halmstads	26	7	7	12	24	36	28
Bromm'karna	26	7	6	13	27	42	27
Hammarby	26	6	4	16	19	36	22
Orgryte	26	5	5	16	20	44	20
Djurgardens	26	5	5	16	17	46	20

SWITZERLAND

Sep 23: Grasshopper 4 Aarau 0; Basle 4 St Gallen 0; Young Boys 3 Zurich 0.
Sep 24: Xamax 4 Bellinzona 1; Lucerne 1 Sion 2.
Sep 26: St Gallen 2 Young Boys 3; Aarau 0 Basle 2.
Sep 27: Zurich 1 Xamax 2; Lucerne 2 Bellinzona 0; Sion 2 Grasshopper 3.
Oct 3: Xamax 4 St Gallen 2; Grasshopper 0 Lucerne 0.
Oct 4: Bellinzona 3 Zurich 2; Young Boys 4 Aarau 0; Basle 5 Sion 0.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Young Boys	12	10	1	1	30	13	31
Xamax	12	7	3	2	29	14	24
Basle	12	6	3	3	24	15	21
Lucerne	12	6	2	4	19	18	20
Zurich	12	4	3	5	23	23	15
Sion	12	4	3	5	21	25	15
Grasshopper	12	4	2	6	19	19	14
St Gallen	12	3	4	5	15	20	13
Bellinzona	12	2	3	7	17	27	9
Aarau	12	1	2	9	7	30	5

TURKEY

Sep 16: Denizlispor 1 Sivasspor 1.
Sep 18: Trabzonspor 3 Antalyaspor 1.
Sep 19: Besiktas 0 Kayserispor 1; Ankaragucu 1 Genclerbirligi 2; Eskisehirspor 3 Gaziantepspor 2; Diyarbakirspor 0 Manisaspor 0; Sivasspor 1 Bursaspor 3.
Sep 20: Fenerbahce 1 Istanbul BB 0.
Sep 21: Kasimpasa 1 Galatasaray 3.
Sep 25: Genclerbirligi 2 Trabzonspor 2.
Sep 26: Gaziantepspor 1 Ankaragucu 3; Istanbul BB 1 Sivasspor 0; Antalyaspor 1 Fenerbahce 2; Bursaspor 4 Diyarbakirspor 0.
Sep 27: Kayserispor 0 Kasimpasa 0; Galatasaray 1 Eskisehirspor 1; Denizlispor 1 Manisaspor 1.
Oct 2: Trabzonspor 0 Gaziantepspor 0.
Oct 3: Besiktas 1 Denizlispor 0; Manisaspor 0 Bursaspor 2; Diyarbakirspor 1 Istanbul BB 3.
Oct 4: Fenerbahce 3 Genclerbirligi 0; Eskisehirspor 0 Kayserispor 1; Sivasspor 2 Antalyaspor 0; Ankaragucu 3 Galatasaray 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	8	8	0	0	17	3	24
Galatasaray	8	6	1	1	20	9	19
Bursaspor	8	5	1	2	15	7	16
Eskisehirspor	8	3	4	1	11	9	13
Trabzonspor	8	3	3	2	15	9	12
Kayserispor	7	3	3	1	7	5	12
Istanbul BB	8	3	3	2	11	12	12
Genclerbirligi	8	2	5	1	11	9	11
Manisaspor	8	2	4	2	7	7	10
Ankaragucu	8	2	3	3	12	10	9
Besiktas	7	2	3	2	4	5	9
Diyarbakirspor	8	2	3	3	8	13	9
Gaziantepspor	8	1	4	3	8	11	7
Antalyaspor	8	2	0	6	6	12	6
Ankaraspor	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Sivasspor	8	1	1	6	6	15	4
Denizlispor	7	0	3	4	3	12	3
Kasimpasa	7	0	1	6	3	15	1

UKRAINE

Sep 19: Zorya 3 Metalurh Zaporizhya 1; Obolon 0 Zakarpattya 1; Illichivets 2 Chornomorets 0; Dnipro 3 Karpaty 0.
Sep 20: Vorskla 0 Kryvbas 0; Arsenal 2 Shakhtar 4; Metalurh Donetsk 0 Tavriya 0; Metalist 1 Dynamo 2.
Sep 23: Metalist 1 Shakhtar 1.
Sep 25: Dynamo 2 Zorya 0.
Sep 26: Kryvbas 0 Metalurh Donetsk 1; Zakarpattya 0 Dnipro 2; Metalurh Zaporizhya 2 Arsenal 1.
Sep 27: Illichivets 0 Vorskla 0; Chornomorets 1 Karpaty 1; Shakhtar 4 Obolon 0; Tavriya 0 Metalist 0.
Oct 3: Zorya 0 Tavriya 0; Metalurh Donetsk 4 Illichivets 1; Obolon 4 Metalurh Zaporizhya 1; Metalist 1 Kryvbas 0.
Oct 4: Arsenal 0 Dynamo 1; Karpaty 0 Zakarpattya 0; Dnipro 2 Shakhtar 2; Vorskla 0 Chornomorets 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	9	8	1	0	26	5	25
Shakhtar	9	6	3	0	24	8	21
Dnipro	9	5	3	1	12	4	18
Metalist	9	5	2	2	10	5	17
Tavriya	9	4	4	1	10	10	16
Metalurh D	9	4	3	2	16	11	15
Illichivets	9	4	2	3	11	12	14
Karpaty	9	3	4	2	14	8	13
Obolon	9	4	0	5	10	17	12
Arsenal	9	2	3	4	12	12	9
Vorskla	9	1	6	2	7	7	9
Zorya	9	2	2	5	6	14	8
Zakarpattya	9	2	1	6	5	15	7
Metalurh Z	9	2	1	6	8	19	7
Chornomorets	9	1	2	6	6	17	5
Kryvbas	9	0	1	8	5	18	1

SOUTH AMERICA

SUDAMERICANA CUP

Preliminary round

1st legs - Aug 4-Sep 2; 2nd legs - Aug 18-Sep 17
Alianza Atletico (Per) v Anzoategui (Ven)
0-0, 2-1 (agg 2-1)
Atletico Mineiro (Bra) v Goias (Bra)
1-1, 1-1 (agg 2-2; Goias 6-5 on pens)
Atletico Paranaense (Bra) v Botafogo (Bra)
0-0, 2-3 (agg 2-3)
Blooming (Bol) v River Plate (Uru)
0-3, 1-2 (agg 1-5)
Boca Juniors (Arg) v Velez Sarsfield (Arg)
1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2)
Cerro Porteno (Par) v La Paz (Bol)
2-0, 2-1 (agg 4-1)
Fluminense (Bra) v Flamengo (Bra)
0-0, 1-1 (agg 1-1; Fluminense on away goals)
La Equidad (Col) v Union Espanola (Chl)
2-2, 0-1 (agg 2-3)
LDU Quito (Ecu) v Libertad (Par)
1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)
Liverpool (Uru) v Cienciano (Per)
0-0, 0-2 (agg 0-2)
River Plate (Arg) v Lanus (Arg)
1-2, 0-1 (agg 1-3)
Tigre (Arg) v San Lorenzo (Arg)
2-1, 0-1 (agg 2-2; San Lorenzo on away goals)
Universidad de Chile (Chl) v Deportivo Cali (Col)
2-1, 1-0 (agg 3-1)
Vitoria (Bra) v Coritiba (Bra)
2-0, 0-2 (agg 2-2; Vitoria 5-3 on pens)
Zamora (Ven) v Emelec (Ecu)
0-1, 1-2 (agg 1-3)

Bye to last 16: Internacional (Bra; holders)

Last 16

1st legs - Sep 22-24; 2nd legs - Sep 30/Oct 1
Alianza Atletico v Fluminense
2-2, 1-4 (agg 3-6)
Botafogo v Emelec
2-0, 1-2 (agg 3-2)
Cerro Porteno v Goias
2-0, 1-3 (agg 3-3; Cerro Porteno on away goals)
Internacional v Universidad de Chile
1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2)
LDU Quito v Lanus
4-0, 1-1 (agg 5-1)
River Plate (Uru) v Vitoria
4-1, 1-1 (agg 5-2)
San Lorenzo v Cienciano
3-0, 2-0 (agg 5-0)
Velez Sarsfield v Union Espanola
3-2, 2-2 (agg 5-4)

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, September 18
Huracan 1 (Toranzo 55)
Estudiantes 4 (Salgueiro 38, Boselli 44, Perez 78, Nunez 89)

Rosario Central 0
Banfield 0

Saturday, September 19
Argentinos Juniors 2 (Sosa 23, 50)
Atletico Tucuman 1 (Rodriguez 81)

Colon 3 (Nieto 18, Rivarola 27, Fuertes 67)
Chacarita Juniors 1 (Grabinski 42)

ARGENTINA

Juniors close gap

Estudiantes suffered their first defeat of the season when they went down 1-0 at Argentinos Juniors, who went second after four straight wins.

Meanwhile, River Plate's desperate start to the season continued as they lost 2-1 to San Lorenzo. Their fourth straight defeat prompted coach Nestor Gorosito to resign. He has been replaced by Leonardo Astrada.

CHILE

La Serena not forced to pay the penalty

Javier Elizondo scored a 15-minute hat-trick as Deportivo La Serena beat Audax Italiano 4-2 in the Primera Division. La Serena could even also afford to miss two penalties in the game.

Lost...River's Diego Buonanotte (left)

PERU

Double whammy for Universidad striker

After being knocked unconscious in a clash with O'Higgins goalkeeper Jorge Rivera, Universidad de Chile's Uruguayan striker Juan Manuel Olivera was rushed to hospital – in an ambulance that then crashed on route.

"It was a tragicomic situation," said La U team doctor Patricio Delgado. "He was a bit shocked at first but he has taken it all with a dose of humour."

Meanwhile, Universitario – who are one of the country's biggest and most popular clubs – have put their training ground up for sale in an attempt to clear tax debts and avoid the threat of bankruptcy.

The club are hoping to get £12million for their Campo Mar training ground.

Gimnasia La Plata 2 (Vizcarra pen 60, Gonzalez 86)
Tigre 0

Independiente 2 (Silvera 65, Matheu 81)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Lopez 54, Cristaldo 60)

Sunday, September 20
Arsenal 1 (Alvarez pen 9)
River Plate 0

Boca Juniors 2 (Salomon og 37, Medel 55)
Godoy Cruz 3 (Jara 7, Higuain pen 78, Chavez 90)

Lanus 0
Newell's Old Boys 2 (Achucarro 20, Boghossian 53)

San Lorenzo 0
Racing Club 0

Friday, September 25
Banfield 2 (Silva pen 68, Rodriguez 72)
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Sanchez Prette 65)

Godoy Cruz 2 (Vega 42, Sigali 86)
Argentinos Juniors 4 (Hauche 54, 67, 90, Sosa 59)

Saturday, September 26
Chacarita Juniors 1 (Parra 15)
Arsenal 0

Estudiantes 2 (Calderon 12, Perez 50)
Boca Juniors 1 (Palermo 47)

Rosario Central 0
Colon 1 (Nieto 29)

Tigre 2 (Lazzaro 18, Leyes 32)
San Lorenzo 3 (Bordagaray 29, Menseguez 45, 84)

Sunday, September 27
Atletico Tucuman 2 (Escobar 59, 72)
Lanus 2 (Hoyos 81, Peralta 87)

Racing Club 1 (Ledesma 49)
Independiente 2 (Gandin 3, pen 30)

River Plate 2 (Villalva 42, Buonanotte 53)
Gimnasia La Plata 2 (Ormeno 73, Cuevas 87)

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Cristaldo 8, 76)
Huracan 0

Friday, October 2
Colon 0
Banfield 0

Independiente 2 (Acevedo 18, Matheu 53)
Tigre 1 (Luna 16)

Saturday, October 3
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Caruzzo 27)
Estudiantes 0

Arsenal 1 (Jara 87)
Rosario Central 0

Huracan 3 (Filipetto 21, Diaz 42, Toranzo 66)
Racing Club 1 (Grazzini 83)

Newell's Old Boys 3 (Insaurralde 10, Achucarro 56, Formica 88)
Atletico Tucuman 0

Sunday, October 4
Boca Juniors 3 (Battaglia 35, Riquelme 65, Palermo 74)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Caruso 7, 47)

Gimnasia La Plata 2 (Cuevas 45, Landa 52)
Chacarita Juniors 0

Lanus 1 (Hoyos 45)
Godoy Cruz 0

San Lorenzo 2 (Romagnoli pen 84, Romeo 86)
River Plate 1 (Buonanotte pen 31)

ARGENTINA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estudiantes	7	5	1	1	15	6	16
Argentinos Jrs	7	4	3	0	11	6	15
Banfield	7	4	3	0	8	3	15
Velez	7	4	2	1	11	6	14
Newell's	7	4	1	2	9	4	13
Independiente	7	4	1	2	13	9	13
San Lorenzo	7	3	4	0	11	7	13
Rosario	7	4	1	2	6	4	13
Colon	7	3	3	1	10	4	12
Arsenal	7	3	1	3	5	7	10
Boca Juniors	7	2	2	3	11	13	8
Godoy Cruz	7	2	2	3	9	11	8
Gimnasia LP	7	2	2	3	7	9	8
Lanus	7	2	2	3	7	9	8
At Tucuman	7	2	1	4	10	14	7
River Plate	7	1	2	4	8	12	5
Racing Club	7	0	4	3	4	8	4
Huracan	7	1	1	5	6	13	4
Chacarita Jrs	7	1	0	6	6	13	3
Tigre	7	1	0	6	8	17	3

LEADING GOALSCORERS

6 Santiago Silva (Banfield)
5 Mauro Boselli (Estudiantes)
5 Dario Gandin (Independiente)
5 Gabriel Hauche (Argentinos Juniors)

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP
Group stage

Sep 16: Oriente 1 The Strongest 0; San Jose 1 Universitario 2; Aurora 1 Real Potosi 0; Bolivar 4 Blooming 1.
Sep 17: La Paz 2 Real Mamore 3; Nacional 1 Jorge Wilstermann 2.

BOLIVIA – CLOSING – GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	12	7	4	1	25	13	25
Universitario	12	5	3	4	11	13	18
Blooming	12	5	3	4	16	19	18
San Jose	12	3	6	3	24	17	15
J Wilstermann	12	4	3	5	14	15	15
Nacional	12	2	2	8	10	21	8

BOLIVIA – CLOSING – GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Potosi	12	7	1	4	23	14	22
The Strongest	12	6	3	3	19	15	21
Oriente	12	5	4	3	12	12	19
Real Mamore	12	5	1	6	16	18	16
Aurora	12	3	2	7	8	14	11
La Paz	12	2	4	6	18	25	10

Top three in both groups qualified for play-offs

Play-offs – 1st round

1st legs - Sep 20; 2nd legs - Sep 23/24
Bolivar v Oriente
1-1, 0-0 (agg 1-1; Oriente on away goals – but Bolivar also went through as "best" 1st round losers)
Real Potosi v Blooming
0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1)
Universitario v The Strongest
2-2, 1-2 (agg 3-4)

Semi-finals

1st legs - Sep 27; 2nd legs - Sep 30
Oriente v Blooming
3-2, 0-1 (agg 3-3; Blooming on away goals)
The Strongest v Bolivar
1-2, 1-2 (agg 2-4)

BRAZIL

Sep 16: Coritiba 1 Corinthians 1.
Sep 19: Atletico Paranaense 1 Sport Recife 0; Vitoria 2 Internacional 0; Nautico 0 Atletico Mineiro 0.
Sep 20: Santo Andre 1 Sao Paulo 1; Gremio 5 Fluminense 1; Avai 4 Barueri 0; Corinthians 1 Goias 4; Santos 0 Botafogo 0; Flamengo 3 Coritiba 0.
Sep 23: Cruzeiro 1 Palmeiras 2.
Sep 26: Palmeiras 2 Atletico Paranaense 1; Barueri 0 Cruzeiro 1.
Sep 27: Fluminense 3 Avai 2; Sao Paulo 1 Corinthians 1; Internacional 0 Flamengo 0; Coritiba 2 Nautico 0; Goias 2 Gremio 1; Atletico Mineiro 3 Santos 1; Botafogo 1 Vitoria 3; Sport Recife 2 Santo Andre 1.
Sep 30: Nautico 1 Sao Paulo 2.
Oct 3: Corinthians 1 Atletico Paranaense 2; Santo Andre 1 Vitoria 0; Atletico Mineiro 2 Barueri 1.
Oct 4: Santos 1 Palmeiras 3; Goias 1 Botafogo 3; Gremio 3 Sport Recife 3; Coritiba 2 Internacional 0; Flamengo 2 Fluminense 0; Avai 2 Cruzeiro 2.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras	27	15	8	4	44	26	53
Sao Paulo	27	13	9	5	37	26	48
At Mineiro	27	13	8	6	45	36	47
Goias	27	13	6	8	49	43	45
Internacional	27	13	5	9	47	34	44
Flamengo	27	11	8	8	40	36	41
Gremio	27	11	7	9	52	34	40
Vitoria	27	11	6	10	41	40	39
Avai	27	10	8	9	41	35	38
Corinthians	27	10	8	9	36	39	38
Cruzeiro	27	10	6	11	36	42	36
Barueri	27	9	9	9	47	41	36
Santos	27	9	9	9	42	44	36
At Paranaense	27	10	4	13	29	39	34
Coritiba	27	9	6	12	36	39	33
Santo Andre	27	7	7	13	28	39	28
Botafogo	27	5	13	9	38	45	28
Nautico	27	6	8	13	31	48	26
Sport Recife	27	6	6	15	35	49	24
Fluminense	27	4	9	14	26	45	21

CHILE

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP
League stage

Sep 17: O'Higgins 1 Univ de Chile 1; Union Espanola 1 Dep La Serena 4.
Sep 18: Univ Catolica 7 Curico Unido 0; Huachipato 2 Audax Italiano 2.
Sep 19: Univ de Concepcion 1 Cobreloa 0; Rangers 2 Nublense 0.
Sep 20: Cobresal 0 Palestino 1; Santiago Morning 2 Everton 1; Municipal 1 Colo Colo 1.
Sep 22: Nublense 1 O'Higgins 0.
Sep 23: Univ de Concepcion 2 Municipal 0; Palestino 1 Dep La Serena 0; Cobreloa 2 Huachipato 0; Audax Italiano 0 Univ Catolica 4.
Sep 24: Everton 3 Colo Colo 2.
Sep 26: Palestino 1 Univ Catolica 1; Santiago Morning 3 Univ de Chile 1.
Sep 27: O'Higgins 2 Union Espanola 0; Cobreloa 0 Curico Unido 0; Cobresal 3 Univ de Concepcion 0; Rangers 5 Municipal 3; Huachipato 1 Everton 2; Colo Colo 3 Nublense 1; Dep La Serena 4 Audax Italiano 2.
Oct 2: Municipal 2 Huachipato 2; Univ Catolica 5 Rangers 1.
Oct 3: Colo Colo 1 Univ de Chile 0; Dep La Serena 3 Cobresal 2; Audax Italiano 1 O'Higgins 1.
Oct 4: Union Espanola 0 Santiago Morning 1; Univ de Concepcion 3 Curico Unido 1; Everton 0 Cobreloa 3; Nublense 1 Palestino 0.

CHILE – CLOSING – LEAGUE STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ Catolica	13	8	5	0	30	6	29
U Concepcion	13	8	1	4	19	15	25
S Morning	12	8	0	4	18	15	24
Audax Italiano	13	6	4	3	22	21	22
Dep La Serena	13	7	0	6	21	16	21
Everton	13	6	3	4	15	14	21
Colo Colo	13	5	4	4	21	16	19
Univ de Chile	12	5	4	3	19	15	19
Palestino	13	4	5	4	13	14	17
Rangers	12	5	2	5	19	21	17
Cobreloa	13	5	1	7	18	17	16
Curico Unido	12	3	6	3	10	18	15
Cobresal	12	4	2	6	14	13	14
U Espanola	12	4	2	6	17	22	14
O'Higgins	13	3	5	5	12	17	14
Nublense	13	4	2	7	10	16	14
Huachipato	13	3	2	8	16	23	11
Municipal	13	0	4	9	15	30	4

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP
Regular season

Sep 19: At Huila 2 Pereira 1; Indep Santa Fe 2 At Junior 2; Once Caldas 1 At Nacional 2.
Sep 20: Dep Pasto 1 Cucuta 0; Cartagena 2 Tolima 3; Chico 3 Quindio 1; Indep Medellin 1 La Equidad 0; Envigado 3 America 3; Dep Cali 0 Millonarios 1.
Sep 25: Millonarios 0 Cartagena 0.
Sep 26: La Equidad 0 Pereira 0; America 1 Indep Medellin 2; At Nacional 1 Dep Pasto 1.
Sep 27: Cucuta 0 Dep Cali 0; At Junior 4 Envigado 1; Tolima 1 Chico 1; Quindio 3 Indep Santa Fe 1; Once Caldas 2 At Huila 1.
Oct 2: Chico 2 Millonarios 2.
Oct 3: Dep Cali 1 At Nacional 2; Pereira 2 America 0.
Oct 4: At Huila 1 La Equidad 0; Indep Medellin 1 At Junior 0; Envigado 3 Quindio 0; Indep Santa Fe 1 Tolima 1; Cartagena 3 Cucuta 2; Dep Pasto 5 Once Caldas 1.

Bad luck...Olivera of La U

URUGUAY

Five see red

Five players were sent off in a fiery clash between River Plate and Nacional.

Mario Regueiro of Nacional was the first to be shown a red card, after 28 minutes, with River leading 1-0. Then in the 49th minute River's William Klingender was dismissed. Nacional were further reduced to eight men when, in quick succession, Matias Rodriguez and Christian Nunes, after 81 and 84 minutes respectively, were the next to go.

Finally, in the fourth minute of added on time, River Plate's Jorge Rodriguez completed the set.

For the record, River Plate held on to their 1-0 lead to inflict a first league defeat of the season on Nacional, who are now third.

Off...Nacional's Rodriguez

USA

Crew record ends

Columbus Crew suffered a rare home defeat when they lost 2-0 to Cruz Azul in their CONCACAF Champions League match in Ohio.

The Crew set an all-time MLS record of 21 consecutive home wins and were unbeaten in all competitions for 24 games until the Mexican club halted their run.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ind Medellin	12	9	0	3	20	10	27
At Huila	12	7	2	3	17	14	23
Dep Pasto	12	6	4	2	19	13	22
At Nacional	12	5	6	1	17	14	21
At Junior	12	6	2	4	28	19	20
Ind Santa Fe	12	5	4	3	22	17	19
Pereira	12	4	5	3	13	7	17
Tolima	12	4	4	4	15	19	16
Millonarios	12	3	6	3	13	14	15
Dep Cali	12	4	3	5	18	20	15
Chico	12	3	5	4	21	22	14
Cartagena	12	3	5	4	18	21	14
Quindio	12	4	1	7	16	22	13
La Equidad	12	1	8	3	12	16	11
Once Caldas	12	3	2	7	12	22	11
Cucuta	12	2	4	6	10	12	10
America	12	1	7	4	15	18	10
Envigado	12	1	6	5	22	28	9

ECUADOR

2nd stage

Sep 16: El Nacional 0 LDU Quito 1; Emelec 4 Espoli 0.
Sep 19: Dep Quito 3 LDU Quito 0.
Sep 20: Espoli 3 El Nacional 2; Macara 1 Tecnico Univ 1; Olmedo 1 Dep Cuenca 1; Manta 3 LDU Portoviejo 2; Barcelona 0 Emelec 0.
Sep 23: Manta 0 Olmedo 1; Dep Cuenca 2 LDU Portoviejo 1; Dep Quito 1 Espoli 0; Macara 1 Barcelona 2.
Sep 27: LDU Portoviejo 1 Macara 1; LDU Quito 4 Barcelona 0; El Nacional 4 Dep Cuenca 1; Emelec 2 Dep Quito 0; Olmedo 1 Espoli 0; Tecnico Univ 2 Manta 3.
Oct 1: Emelec 4 Tecnico Univ 1.
Oct 3: Barcelona 2 LDU Portoviejo 0; Dep Cuenca 3 LDU Quito 0; Macara 1 El Nacional 1; Dep Quito 2 Olmedo 2; Espoli 2 Tecnico Univ 2; Manta 2 Emelec 0.

ECUADOR – 2ND STAGE – GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LDU Quito	12	6	4	2	18	10	22
Dep Cuenca	12	4	6	2	13	11	18
El Nacional	12	4	3	5	17	11	15
Barcelona	12	3	6	3	14	16	15
Macara	12	2	6	4	11	12	12
LDU P'viejo	12	3	2	7	8	20	11

ECUADOR – 2ND STAGE – GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Quito	12	7	2	3	14	8	23
Manta	12	6	3	3	17	13	21
Emelec	12	5	3	4	17	12	18
Olmedo	12	4	6	2	14	12	18
Espoli	12	4	1	7	13	20	13
Tecnico Univ	12	1	4	7	13	24	7

Top two in both groups qualified for 3rd stage, to which Emelec, LDU Quito, Macara and Olmedo had qualified by finishing in the top four in the 1st stage.*
**Since LDU Quito qualified in both stages, Espoli take the eighth and final 3rd stage place by virtue of having the highest aggregate points tally of all the otherwise non-qualified clubs*

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 15: Rubio Nu 1 Sol de America 2.
Sep 16: 12 de Octubre 2 Tacuary 3; Sportivo Luqueno 0 Nacional 1; Olimpia 1 Guarani 2; Libertad 1 2 de Mayo 1; 3 de Febrero 0 Cerro Porteno 2.
Sep 19: Rubio Nu 2 3 de Febrero 1.
Sep 20: 2 de Mayo 0 Olimpia 1; Sol de America 2 12 de Octubre 1; Tacuary 1 Sportivo Luqueno 1; Nacional 2 Libertad 0; Guarani 0 Cerro Porteno 0.
Sep 25: 3 de Febrero 2 Guarani 1.
Sep 26: Libertad 2 Tacuary 1.
Sep 27: Sportivo Luqueno 0 Sol de America 4; 12 de Octubre 1 Rubio Nu 2; Cerro Porteno 1 2 de Mayo 0; Olimpia 1 Nacional 2.
Oct 3: Libertad 2 Sol de America 1.
Oct 4: 12 de Octubre 1 3 de Febrero 0; Sportivo Luqueno 1 Rubio Nu 1; Olimpia 2 Tacuary 1; Guarani 3 2 de Mayo 1.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	11	8	2	1	16	5	26
Libertad	12	7	3	2	18	10	24
Guarani	12	6	4	2	11	6	22
Rubio Nu	12	6	4	2	14	10	22
Olimpia	12	7	0	5	18	11	21
3 de Febrero	12	4	3	5	12	17	15
Cerro Porteno	11	3	5	3	9	10	14
Tacuary	12	4	2	6	13	20	14
2 de Mayo	12	3	2	7	10	11	11
Sol America	12	3	2	7	13	16	11
S Luqueno	12	2	4	6	10	19	10
12 de Octubre	12	2	1	9	8	17	7

PERU

Group stage

Sep 16: Inti Gas 2 Juan Aurich 2; Jose Galvez 3 Sporting Cristal 1; Universidad SMP 2 Melgar 2; Alianza Lima 1 Sport Ancash 0; Coronel Bolognesi 2 Huancayo 0; Cienciano 1 Universitario 1; Cesar Vallejo 1 Colegio Nacional 1.
Sep 19: Total Chalaco 1 Coronel Bolognesi 2; Colegio Nacional 1 Inti Gas 1.
Sep 20: Melgar 1 Alianza Atletico 1; Juan Aurich 1 Jose Galvez 2; Sport Ancash 4 Cesar Vallejo 0; Huancayo 3 Cienciano 2; Sporting Cristal 1 Alianza Lima 1; Universitario 0 Universidad SMP 0.
Sep 26: Melgar 2 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Colegio Nacional 2 Jose Galvez 1.
Sep 27: Sport Ancash 2 Inti Gas 1; Alianza Atletico 0 Universitario 1; Alianza Lima 1 Juan Aurich 0; Universidad SMP 1 Huancayo 2; Cesar Vallejo 1 Sporting Cristal 1; Total Chalaco 4 Cienciano 0.
Oct 3: Inti Gas 3 Alianza Lima 2; Sporting Cristal 4 Colegio Nacional 0; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Universidad SMP 2.
Oct 4: Cienciano 1 Alianza Atletico 0; Huancayo 3 Melgar 1; Juan Aurich 1 Sport Ancash 1; Universitario 2 Total Chalaco 1; Jose Galvez 0 Cesar Vallejo 1.

PERU – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	35	18	7	10	46	35	61
Juan Aurich	35	16	12	7	52	38	60
Cesar Vallejo	35	14	11	10	45	41	53
S Cristal	35	14	8	13	62	42	50
Inti Gas	35	12	10	13	44	40	46
Jose Galvez	35	13	6	16	34	43	45
Sport Ancash	35	10	7	18	34	53	37
Col Nacional	35	10	6	19	28	49	36

PERU – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	35	17	12	6	41	24	63
Huancayo	35	17	7	11	54	38	58
Univ SMP*	35	13	15	7	53	39	53
Cienciano	35	11	14	10	45	46	47
Melgar	35	12	11	12	42	48	47
Total Chalaco	34	10	11	13	49	46	41
Al Atletico	34	7	11	16	29	44	32
C Bolognesi	35	5	12	18	31	63	27

**1pt deducted*

URUGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 19: Fenix 1 Cerro Largo 1; Danubio 2 River Plate 2; Penarol 1 Tacuarembo 0.
Sep 20: Rampla Juniors 0 Racing 0; Atenas 0 Cerro 1; Central Espanol 0 Defensor 4; Cerrito 1 Wanderers 2; Nacional 2 Liverpool 1.
Sep 26: River Plate 1 Nacional 0; Defensor 2 Fenix 0.
Sep 27: Racing 1 Cerrito 1; Cerro Largo 2 Danubio 3; Wanderers 0 Atenas 0; Tacuarembo 0 Rampla Juniors 1; Cerro 1 Central Espanol 2; Liverpool 2 Penarol 2.
Oct 3: Central Espanol 1 Wanderers 1; Fenix 1 Liverpool 1; Nacional 3 Racing 2.
Oct 4: Penarol 2 River Plate 2; Atenas 2 Cerro Largo 0; Danubio 4 Cerro 2; Cerrito 2 Tacuarembo 0; Rampla Juniors 1 Defensor 3.

URUGUAY – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Danubio	6	4	1	1	14	8	13
Defensor	6	4	0	2	14	8	12
Nacional*	6	5	0	1	10	4	12
Liverpool	6	3	2	1	11	8	11
River Plate	6	2	4	0	11	7	10
Cerrito	6	3	1	2	10	7	10
Penarol	6	2	3	1	9	7	9
Racing	6	2	3	1	8	6	9
Rampla Jrs	6	2	3	1	5	5	9
Wanderers	6	2	2	2	5	5	8
C Espanol	6	1	3	2	6	10	6
Cerro	6	1	2	3	6	10	5
Cerro Largo	6	1	1	4	4	8	4
Atenas	6	1	1	4	3	10	4
Tacuarembo	6	1	0	5	3	7	3
Fenix	6	0	2	4	2	11	2

**3pts deducted*

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 19: Aragua 0 Anzoategui 2.
Sep 20: El Vigia 1 Caracas 6; Lara 2 Centro Italo 1; Mineros 3 Llaneros 2; Monagas 1 Trujillanos 0; Zulia 3 Tachira 2; Zamora 3 Yaracuyanos 2; Esppor 0 Carabobo 0; Italia 0 Estudiantes 0.
Sep 26: Trujillanos 1 Mineros 0; Estudiantes 6 Zamora 0; Yaracuyanos 0 Zulia 3.
Sep 27: Llaneros 0 Lara 4; Carabobo 0 Italia 1; Centro Italo 2 El Vigia 3; Caracas 4 Aragua 0; Monagas 5 Esppor 0.
Oct 3: Zulia 2 Estudiantes 1.
Oct 4: Aragua 1 Centro Italo 0; El Vigia 3 Llaneros 1; Mineros 6 Monagas 2; Anzoategui 2 Yaracuyanos 2; Zamora 1 Carabobo 0; Italia 2 Esppor 0.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italia	8	6	1	1	9	3	19
Caracas	7	5	2	0	18	4	17
Lara	7	4	2	1	12	5	14
Monagas	8	4	2	2	17	14	14
Trujillanos	7	4	1	2	13	7	13
Esppor	8	3	3	2	7	9	12
Tachira	6	3	2	1	10	3	11
Aragua	8	3	2	3	7	11	11
Anzoategui	6	3	1	2	11	9	10
Mineros	8	3	1	4	12	11	10
Zulia	8	3	1	4	13	14	10
El Vigia	8	3	1	4	13	17	10
Yaracuyanos	8	3	1	4	11	15	10
Zamora	7	2	2	3	6	14	8
Estudiantes	8	1	4	3	9	8	7
Centro Italo	8	1	2	5	10	14	5
Llaneros	8	0	3	5	6	16	3
Carabobo	8	0	3	5	2	12	3

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 15: Metapan (ES) 0 Arabe Unido (Pan) 1.
Sep 16: Pachuca (Mex) 2 Houston Dynamo (USA) 0.
Sep 22: Houston Dynamo 5 Arabe Unido 1; Metapan 0 Pachuca 4.
Sep 29: Arabe Unido 6 Metapan 0.
Sep 30: Houston Dynamo 0 Pachuca 1.

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pachuca	5	4	0	1	13	4	12
Arabe Unido	5	3	1	1	13	7	10
Houston	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Metapan	5	0	0	5	0	17	0

Group B

Sep 15: San Juan Jabloteh (T&T) 0 DC United (USA) 1.
Sep 17: Toluca (Mex) 7 Marathon (Hnd) 0.
Sep 23: Toluca 3 San Juan Jabloteh 0.
Sep 24: DC United 3 Marathon 0.
Sep 30: DC United 5 San Juan Jabloteh 1.
Oct 1: Marathon 2 Toluca 0.

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	5	4	0	1	14	3	12
DC United	5	3	0	2	11	7	9
Marathon	5	3	0	2	8	12	9
San Juan	5	0	0	5	2	13	0

Group C

Sep 15: Puerto Rico Islanders (PR) 3 Cruz Azul (Mex) 3.
Sep 16: Saprissa (CR) 0 Columbus Crew (USA) 1.
Sep 22: Puerto Rico Islanders 1 Saprissa 1.
Sep 23: Columbus Crew 0 Cruz Azul 2.
Sep 29: Columbus Crew 1 Saprissa 1; Cruz Azul 2 Puerto Rico Islanders 0.

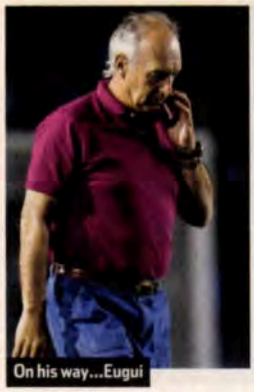
CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	5	4	1	0	14	3	13
Columbus	5	2	1	2	4	8	7
Saprissa	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
Puerto Rico Is	5	0	2	3	5	11	2

MEXICO

Hero Eugui pays price

Despite taking underdogs Indios to the semi-finals of the closing championship earlier this year, Uruguayan coach Hugo Eugui was sacked by the club from Ciudad Juarez after they failed to record a win on any of their first 10 games in the opening championship. They remain the only side yet to register a victory.


On his way...Eugui

CONGO DR

Mazembe march on

Former African champions TP Mazembe twice came from behind to beat Sudanese giants Al-Hilal 5-2 in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final.

Midfielder Lusadisu Basisila and defender Kubangu Mulota both scored twice, with midfielder Kaluyituka Dioko also on target for the visitors. Barry Demba and Haitham Mustafa scored for the hosts.

NIGERIA

Heartland look set

Heartland FC all but booked their place in the African Champions League Final with a 4-0 first-leg win in their semi-final against fellow Nigerians Kano Pillars. Emeka Nwanna and Uche Agba both scored twice.

New start...Bhutia

Group D

Sep 16: W Connection (T&T) 2 Pumas UNAM (Mex) 2.
Sep 17: Comunicaciones (Gtm) 2 Real Espana (Hnd) 0.
Sep 23: Comunicaciones 0 W Connection 3.
Sep 24: Pumas UNAM 4 Real Espana 0.
Sep 30: Pumas UNAM 2 W Connection 1; Real Espana 2 Comunicaciones 0.

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pumas UNAM	5	4	1	0	14	4	13
Com'caciones	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Real Espana	5	2	0	3	4	11	6
W Connection	5	1	1	3	7	7	4

Remaining matchday: Oct 20-22

Top two in each group qualify for quarter-finals

MEXICO

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP Group stage

Sep 18: Tecos 0 Morelia 2.
Sep 19: Cruz Azul 4 San Luis 2; Pachuca 1 Monterrey 3; Tigres 0 Indios 0; Guadalajara 1 Jaguares 0; Atlante 0 Santos 1.
Sep 20: Toluca 2 Atlas 0; Puebla 1 Pumas 1; Queretaro 0 America 0.
Sep 26: Cruz Azul 1 Toluca 2; Monterrey 2 Puebla 1; Indios 1 Tecos 2; Atlas 2 Tigres 1; San Luis 0 Jaguares 3.
Sep 27: Morelia 5 Queretaro 0; Pumas 1 Guadalajara 1; Santos 4 Pachuca 0; America 1 Atlante 0.
Oct 2: Tecos 1 Atlas 2.
Oct 3: Queretaro 3 Indios 1; Jaguares 0 Pumas 2; Atlante 2 Morelia 1; Tigres 2 Cruz Azul 0; Guadalajara 1 Monterrey 0; Pachuca 2 America 1.
Oct 4: Toluca 1 San Luis 1; Puebla 3 Santos 3.

MEXICO – OPENING – GROUP 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	11	8	1	2	21	13	25
Atlas	11	4	2	5	9	14	14
Guadalajara	10	3	3	4	14	19	12
San Luis	10	2	5	3	13	12	11
Queretaro	11	1	3	7	9	24	6
Indios	11	0	4	7	4	17	4

MEXICO – OPENING – GROUP 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey	11	7	2	2	19	9	23
Morelia	11	7	1	3	22	10	22
America	11	6	3	2	23	11	21
Pachuca	11	6	1	4	20	19	19
Puebla	11	3	7	1	14	12	16
Jaguares	11	3	2	6	9	14	11

MEXICO – OPENING – GROUP 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	11	6	3	2	22	15	21
Cruz Azul	11	6	0	5	20	14	18
Tigres	11	3	4	4	14	13	13
Atlante	10	4	1	5	9	12	13
Tecos	10	3	2	5	14	20	11
Pumas	11	2	2	7	9	17	8

UNITED STATES

Regular season

Sep 18: New York 1 New England 1; San Jose 1 Colorado 1.
Sep 19: Seattle 0 Chivas 0; Kansas City 3 Dallas 2; Houston 3 Salt Lake 2; Los Angeles 2 Toronto 0.
Sep 20: Chicago 2 Columbus 2.
Sep 23: Colorado 1 San Jose 1.
Sep 26: Columbus 2 Los Angeles 0; New England 2 Seattle 1; Kansas City 0 Colorado 0; Dallas 3 Salt Lake 0; Chicago 2 Toronto 2; Chivas 1 New York 1.
Sep 27: DC United 1 San Jose 2.
Sep 30: Dallas 1 New England 0.
Oct 2: Los Angeles 1 Chicago 0.
Oct 3: DC United 0 Chivas 2; Columbus 0 Seattle 1; Colorado 1 New England 1; San Jose 1 New York 0.
Oct 4: Houston 1 Kansas City 1.

UNITED STATES – EASTERN CONFERENCE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Columbus	27	12	10	5	40	29	46
Chicago	28	10	11	7	38	34	41
New England	27	10	8	9	32	36	38
DC United	28	8	12	8	40	42	36
Toronto	27	9	8	10	35	40	35
Kansas City	27	8	8	11	29	35	32
New York	28	4	6	18	22	45	18

UNITED STATES – WESTERN CONFERENCE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Houston	28	12	8	8	36	27	44
Los Angeles	28	11	11	6	34	31	44
Seattle	28	10	11	7	33	26	41
Chivas	26	12	5	9	28	25	41
Colorado	28	10	10	8	41	33	40
Salt Lake	27	9	7	11	38	34	34
Dallas	27	9	6	12	45	43	33
San Jose	26	7	7	12	32	43	28

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 19: Al Merreikh (Sud) 1 Kano Pillars (Nig) 1; Zesco United (Zam) 2 Al Hilal (Sud) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kano Pillars	6	3	2	1	10	8	11
Al Hilal	6	3	1	2	7	5	10
Zesco United	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
Al Merreikh	6	0	3	3	5	10	3

Group B

Sep 20: Monomotapa (Zim) 2 Heartland (Nig) 1; TP Mazembe (DRC) 1 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TP Mazembe	6	4	0	2	11	4	12
Heartland	6	3	1	2	9	5	10
Etoile Sahel	6	2	1	3	5	7	7
Monomotapa	6	2	0	4	5	14	6

Top two in both groups qualified for semi-finals

Semi-finals, 1st legs

Oct 4
Al Hilal 2 (Barry 2, Mustafa pen 25)
TP Mazembe 5 (Lusadisu 4, 90, Kabangu 30, pen 79, Kaliyutuka 61)
HT: 2-2

Oct 4
Heartland 4 (Nwana 13, 34, Agba 17, 45)
Kano Pillars 0
HT: 4-0

2nd legs - Oct 16-18

CONFEDERATION CUP

Group A

Sep 19: ES Setif (Alg) 1 ENPPI (Egy) 3; Santos (Ang) 1 AS Vita Club (DRC) 0.

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP A – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ES Setif	6	3	0	3	14	9	9
ENPPI	6	3	0	3	13	10	9
AS Vita Club	6	3	0	3	7	7	9
Santos	6	3	0	3	3	11	9

Group B

Sep 20: Haras Hedood (Egy) 5 Primeiro Agosto (Ang) 1; Stade Malien (Mli) 0 Bayelsa United (Nig) 1.

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP B – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stade Malien	6	2	3	1	5	3	9
Bayelsa Utd	6	3	0	3	9	6	9
P Agosto	6	2	2	2	5	10	8
Haras Hedood	6	2	1	3	7	7	7

Top two in both groups qualified for semi-finals

Semi-finals

Oct 3
Bayelsa United 1 (Ojobo 69)
ES Setif 1 (Ziaya pen 80)
HT: 0-0

Oct 3
ENPPI 2 (Mustafa pen 41, Al Muhammadi 52)
Stade Malien 2 (Bagayoko 22, Coulibaly 71)
HT: 1-1

2nd legs - Oct 16-18

EGYPT

Sep 16: Ittihad 0 Ismaili 1; Masry 1 Ahly 1; Mansoura 2 Shorta 0; Mokawloon 2 Gouna 0.
Sep 17: Zamalek 0 Jaish 1; Petrojet 2 Entag Harby 2.
Sep 22: Mehalla 1 Petrojet 3; Entag Harby 3 Mokawloon 1; Ismaili 1 Zamalek 0; Jaish 3 Masry 1.
Sep 23: Gouna 2 Ittihad 1; Haras Hedood 2 Mansoura 1; Shorta 0 ENPPI 0; Ahly 1 Assyut 0.
Sep 27: Haras Hedood 2 Masry 2.

EGYPT	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ahly	6	4	2	0	11	5	14
Petrojet	6	3	2	1	11	7	11
Ismaili	6	3	2	1	8	6	11
Jaish	6	3	1	2	12	10	10
Entag Harby	5	2	3	0	8	4	9
Haras Hedood	5	2	3	0	9	7	9
Shorta	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Gouna	6	2	2	2	6	7	8
Zamalek	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
ENPPI	4	2	1	1	6	6	7
Mansoura	6	1	3	2	7	7	6
Mokawloon	6	1	3	2	7	8	6
Masry	6	1	2	3	8	11	5
Mehalla	5	1	1	3	2	8	4
Assyut	5	0	3	2	2	4	3
Ittihad	6	0	1	5	4	11	1

SOUTH AFRICA

Sep 15: Platinum Stars 0 Chiefs 1.
Sep 16: Maritzburg 2 Celtic 4; Wits 4 Sundowns 2; Pirates 1 Aces 0; AmaZulu 0 Ajax 1; SuperSport 4 Swallows 2; Santos 1 Cosmos 1; Free State Stars 3 Arrows 1.
Sep 22: Cosmos 1 SuperSport 3.
Sep 23: Pirates 1 Platinum Stars 0; Celtic 1 Chiefs 0; Ajax 1 Maritzburg 1; Aces 1 Free State Stars 1; Swallows 0 Wits 2; Sundowns 2 AmaZulu 0; Arrows 1 Santos 1.
Sep 26: Pirates 1 Wits 1; Sundowns 1 Ajax 2; Santos 2 Platinum Stars 0; Arrows 1 Maritzburg 1; Free State Stars 0 SuperSport 1.
Sep 27: Cosmos 1 Chiefs 2; Aces 2 AmaZulu 0; Swallows 0 Celtic 0.
Sep 30: Platinum Stars 0 Ajax 1; AmaZulu 0 Arrows 1.
Oct 2: Santos 1 Aces 0; Maritzburg 1 Sundowns 5.
Oct 3: AmaZulu 2 Swallows 1; Free State Stars 0 Pirates 0; Platinum Stars 1 Celtic 2; SuperSport 1 Arrows 1.
Oct 4: Wits 3 Cosmos 1; Ajax 0 Chiefs 3.

SOUTH AFRICA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pirates	9	5	4	0	9	1	19
Wits	9	4	5	0	16	9	17
Celtic	9	4	5	0	13	8	17
SuperSport	9	4	4	1	13	8	16
Santos	9	4	3	2	8	4	15
Ajax	10	4	3	3	8	10	15
Chiefs	9	4	1	4	9	7	13
Arrows	10	2	7	1	8	7	13
Sundowns	9	3	3	3	14	10	12
Maritzburg	9	2	4	3	10	14	10
FS Stars	9	1	6	2	8	8	9
Aces	9	2	3	4	7	9	9
Swallows	9	2	2	5	6	11	8
AmaZulu	10	2	2	6	8	15	8
Platinum Stars	10	1	3	6	4	10	6
Cosmos	9	1	3	5	6	16	6

TUNISIA

Sep 16: Hammam-Lif 1 Etoile Sahel 2.
Sep 26: Hammam-Sousse 4 Olympique 1; Sfaxien 1 Kairouanaise 0; Club Africain 1 Esperance Zarzis 0.
Sep 27: Bizertin 0 Kasserine 0; Etoile Sahel 0 Esperance Tunis 1; Stade Tunisien 1 Monastir 0; Gafsa 2 Hammam-Lif 4.
Oct 3: Esperance Tunis 3 Gafsa 0.
Oct 4: Hammam-Lif 1 Olympique 2; Bizertin 1 Sfaxien 1; Esperance Zarzis 1 Hammam-Sousse 0; Kairouanaise 2 Etoile Sahel 1; Monastir 0 Club Africain 1; Kasserine 0 Stade Tunisien 1.

TUNISIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance T	7	6	0	1	17	5	18
Stade Tunisien	7	5	1	1	10	5	16
Club Africain	7	5	1	1	5	1	16
Bizertin	7	4	3	0	10	4	15
Etoile Sahel	7	4	1	2	14	6	13
Sfaxien	7	3	2	2	10	7	11
Kairouanaise	7	3	0	4	4	7	9
Esperance Z	7	2	1	4	6	8	7
Monastir	7	1	3	3	9	9	6
Ham-Sousse	7	2	0	5	8	14	6
Gafsa	7	1	3	3	6	12	6
Olympique	7	1	2	4	3	10	5
Kasserine	7	1	2	4	5	15	5
Ham-Lif	7	1	1	5	9	13	4

INDIA

Bhutia on the move

National skipper Baichung Bhutia has joined East Bengal from Mohun Bagan.

KUWAIT

Clausen dismissed

Kuwait SC sacked coach Nestor Clausen two days before the Asian Cup quarter-final second-leg against Arbil.

THAILAND

League's big draw

A record league crowd of 16,608 saw the 1-1 draw between Muang Thong United and Chonburi.

UAE

Opening day upset

Defending league champions Al Ahli were beaten 3-1 by Al Wahda on the opening day of the new season. UAE President's Cup winners Al Ain began their campaign by beating Al Nasr 2-0.

VIETNAM

Last four success

Binh Duong beat Chonburi 4-2 on aggregate in the AFC Cup quarter-finals to become the first Vietnamese team ever to reach the last four of a continental competition.

Exit...Clausen

AUSTRALIA

Expansion postponed

Plans to increase the size of the A-League next term have been scaled down due to ongoing financial uncertainty.

Although a new club from Melbourne will join the 10-team league next term, an expected 12th side – to be based in Sydney – will now be given an extra year to prepare their finances.

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Sep 23
Bunyodkor (Uzb) 3 (Karpenko 30, Djeparov 79, 86)
Pohang Steelers (SKo) 1 (No Byung-jin 8)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,350. **Ref:** Al Ghamdi (Sau)
Sent off: Kim Hyung-il (Pohang) 67min

Sep 23
Kawasaki Frontale (Jap) 2 (Nakamura 60, Juninho 63)
Nagoya Grampus (Jap) 1 (Kennedy 28)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,939. **Ref:** Sun (Chn)

Sep 23
Umm Salal (Qat) 3 (Magno Alves 55, 85, Fabio Cesar 84)
Seoul (SKo) 2 (Jung Jo-gook 3, 45)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 7,139. **Ref:** Moradi (Irn)

Sep 24
Pakhtakor (Uzb) 1 (Nikolic 6)
Al Ittihad (Sau) 1 (Al Saqri 72)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Williams (Aus)

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

All Sep 30

Al Ittihad 4 (Al Nemri 43, Chermiti 55, Aboucherouane 71, Noor 76)
Pakhtakor 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,753. **Ref:** Kim (SKo)
Al Ittihad 5-1 on agg

Nagoya Grampus 3 (Ogawa 27, Yoshida 35, Kennedy 88)
Kawasaki Frontale 1 (Jong Tae-se 38)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 8,796. **Ref:** Abdullah (Qat)
Nagoya Grampus 4-3 on agg

Pohang Steelers 4 (Kim Jae-sung 46, Denilson 56, 77, Ristic 102)
Bunyodkor 1 (Karpenko 89)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 3-1. **Att:** 16,252.
Ref: Basma (Syr)
Pohang Steelers 5-4 on agg

Seoul 1 (Damjanovic 16)
Umm Salal 1 (Ben Askar 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,348. **Ref:** Toma (Jap)
Umm Salal 4-3 on agg

Semi-finals draw

Al Ittihad v Nagoya Grampus
Pohang Steelers v Umm Salal
1st legs - Oct 21; 2nd legs - Oct 28

AFC CUP

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Sep 15; 2nd legs - Sep 30
Al Karama (Syr) v Al Arabi (Kuw)
0-0, 0-0 (aet) (agg 0-0; Al Karama 5-4 on pens)
Chonburi (Tha) v Binh Duong (Vie)
2-2, 0-2 (agg 2-4)
Kuwait SC (Kuw) v Arbil (Irq)
1-1, 1-0 (agg 2-1)
Neftchi (Uzb) v South China (HK)
5-4, 0-1 (agg 5-5; South China on away goals)

Semi-finals draw

Binh Duong v Al Karama
Kuwait SC v South China
1st legs - Oct 15; 2nd legs - Oct 21

AUSTRALIA

Regular season

Sep 18: Adelaide 0 Melbourne 2.
Sep 19: Central Coast 3 Gold Coast 0.
Sep 20: Wellington 1 North Queensland 1; Sydney 2 Newcastle 1; Brisbane 2 Perth 4.
Sep 25: Newcastle 0 Perth 1.
Sep 26: Gold Coast 2 Melbourne 3.
Sep 27: Wellington 0 Central Coast 0; Brisbane 1 Sydney 0; North Queensland 0 Adelaide 2.
Oct 2: Gold Coast 0 Wellington 0.
Oct 3: Perth 1 North Queensland 1; Melbourne 2 Brisbane 1.
Oct 5: Sydney 1 Central Coast 0; Adelaide 1 Newcastle 1.

AUSTRALIA – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney	9	5	1	3	10	7	16
Melbourne	9	4	3	2	14	12	15
Gold Coast	9	4	2	3	16	11	14
Perth	9	4	2	3	14	11	14
Central Coast	9	3	3	3	8	5	12
Brisbane	9	3	3	3	14	14	12
Adelaide	9	3	3	3	9	10	12
Wellington	9	1	6	2	8	10	9
Newcastle	9	2	3	4	8	13	9
N Queensland	9	1	4	4	9	17	7

CHINA

Sep 15: Beijing 0 Changchun 2.
Sep 16: Guangzhou 1 Chengdu 2; Dalian 1 Jiangsu 0; Qingdao 2 Shanghai 1; Tianjin 0 Shaanxi 1; Shandong 1 Henan 2.
Sep 17: Hangzhou 1 Changsha 1.
Sep 19: Shaanxi 1 Henan 0; Shenzhen 2 Beijing 2.
Sep 20: Chengdu 1 Dalian 1; Jiangsu 4 Hangzhou 1; Shanghai 4 Tianjin 0; Changchun 1 Qingdao 1; Shandong 1 Guangzhou 1.
Sep 26: Guangzhou 1 Shaanxi 1; Qingdao 0 Beijing 1; Dalian 2 Shandong 0; Hangzhou 2 Chengdu 2.
Sep 27: Chongqing 2 Jiangsu 0; Changsha 0 Shenzhen 0; Tianjin 1 Changchun 0; Henan 2 Shanghai 0.
Sep 30: Chongqing 2 Hangzhou 1.
Oct 5: Changchun 1 Henan 0; Shaanxi 2 Dalian 0; Chengdu 2 Chongqing 3; Jiangsu 1 Changsha 1; Shenzhen 1 Qingdao 1; Shandong 1 Hangzhou 0; Shanghai 3 Guangzhou 1.

CHINA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Henan	26	11	8	7	27	19	41
Beijing	25	10	10	5	38	25	40
Shandong	26	10	10	6	31	27	40
Changchun	26	11	7	8	29	27	40
Dalian	26	10	8	8	25	23	38
Shanghai	26	10	7	9	34	26	37
Tianjin	25	10	7	8	29	23	37
Jiangsu	26	9	9	8	28	22	36
Shaanxi	26	9	8	9	23	19	35
Guangzhou	26	9	8	9	36	33	35
Qingdao	26	7	11	8	30	29	32
Chengdu	26	8	6	12	29	36	30
Changsha	25	5	13	7	19	26	28
Hangzhou	26	7	7	12	27	35	28
Shenzhen*	25	6	9	10	25	38	24
Chongqing	24	6	6	12	20	42	24

**3pts deducted for kit rule violation*

IRAN

Sep 18: Esteghlal Tehran 2 Steel Azin 0.
Sep 19: Peykan 2 AbooMoslem 0; Shahin 4 Mes 1; Saba 2 Pas 1; Zob-Ahan 5 Esteghlal Ahvaz 2.
Sep 20: Malavan 0 Sepahan 0; Moghavemat 2 Teraktor Sazi 2; Foolad 1 Saipa 1; Rah-Ahan 2 Persepolis 2.
Sep 24: AbooMoslem 0 Esteghlal Tehran 5; Pas 1 Zob-Ahan 1.
Sep 25: Teraktor Sazi 1 Foolad 0; Steel Azin 1 Moghavemat 1; Saipa 3 Malavan 1; Persepolis 1 Peykan 2; Esteghlal Ahvaz 2 Shahin 2; Mes 2 Rah-Ahan 2; Sepahan 3 Saba 1.
Oct 1: Rah-Ahan 1 Esteghlal Ahvaz 1; Zob-Ahan 2 Saba 1; Saipa 2 Sepahan 2; Shahin 1 Pas 1.
Oct 2: Esteghlal Tehran 1 Persepolis 1; Moghavemat 1 AbooMoslem 1; Foolad 0 Steel Azin 0; Peykan 0 Mes 0; Malavan 1 Teraktor Sazi 1.

IRAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peykan	9	6	2	1	13	4	20
Esteghlal T	9	5	4	0	13	3	19
Zob-Ahan	9	5	3	1	19	12	18
Moghavemat	9	3	6	0	15	7	15
Sepahan	9	4	3	2	16	9	15
Teraktor Sazi	9	3	4	2	12	10	13
Persepolis	9	2	6	1	14	13	12
Mes	9	3	3	3	17	18	12
Steel Azin	9	3	3	3	11	12	12
Saipa	9	3	3	3	10	12	12
Saba	9	4	0	5	13	16	12
Malavan	9	2	4	3	6	14	10
Shahin	9	1	5	3	14	15	8
Rah-Ahan	9	1	5	3	11	13	8
Esteghlal A	9	1	4	4	10	17	7
Pas	9	1	3	5	9	15	6
Foolad	9	0	5	4	4	8	5
AbooMoslem	9	0	5	4	6	15	5

JAPAN

Sep 19: Albirex 0 Oita 0; Jubilo 3 Kyoto 0; Tokyo 0 Gamba 0; Yokohama 2 Kashima 1; Omiya 0 Nagoya 2; Montedio 0 Shimizu 1; Kawasaki 0 Urawa 2.
Sep 20: Kashiwa 1 Sanfrecce 1; Vissel 2 JEF 2.
Sep 26: Oita 0 Kashiwa 0; Tokyo 3 Jubilo 2; Gamba 2 Kawasaki 1; Kashima 1 Nagoya 4; Kyoto 1 Omiya 3; JEF 1 Montedio 2; Sanfrecce 1 Albirex 2.
Sep 27: Shimizu 1 Vissel 0; Urawa 1 Yokohama 2.
Oct 3: Shimizu 1 Sanfrecce 1; Montedio 0 Oita 0; Kashiwa 1 Jubilo 2; Urawa 3 JEF 1; Vissel 1 Kyoto 1.
Oct 4: Kawasaki 2 Yokohama 0; Gamba 4 Omiya 1; Kashima 0 Albirex 1; Nagoya 1 Tokyo 2.

JAPAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shimizu	28	13	11	4	42	28	50
Kashima	27	15	5	7	37	26	50
Gamba	28	15	4	9	51	36	49
Kawasaki	27	13	7	7	44	31	46
Albirex	28	12	10	6	39	26	46
Sanfrecce	28	12	9	7	45	34	45
Tokyo	28	13	4	11	38	34	43
Urawa	28	13	4	11	38	36	43
Nagoya	28	12	5	11	39	37	41
Jubilo	28	11	5	12	44	50	38
Yokohama	28	9	10	9	36	32	37
Kyoto	28	10	6	12	30	36	36
Vissel	28	9	7	12	36	42	34
Omiya	28	8	9	11	33	41	33
Montedio	28	8	7	13	30	36	31
Kashiwa	28	5	12	11	32	48	27
JEF	28	4	11	13	27	44	23
Oita	28	4	4	20	17	41	16

SOUTH KOREA

Sep 19: Songnam 1 Incheon 1; Ulsan 1 Chunnam 1; Daejeon 1 Jeju 0.
Sep 20: Daegu 2 Gangwon 1; Gyeongnam 2 Gwangju 1; Chonbuk 3 Busan 1.
Sep 26: Chunnam 2 Songnam 0; Suwon 3 Gyeongnam 1; Busan 1 Pohang 2.
Sep 27: Incheon 0 Chonbuk 1; Gwangju 0 Daegu 1; Seoul 3 Daejeon 0; Gangwon 1 Ulsan 2.
Oct 2: Daegu 1 Suwon 0; Chonbuk 2 Chunnam 0.
Oct 3: Songnam 3 Gangwon 0; Busan 2 Daejeon 1.
Oct 4: Jeju 0 Seoul 2; Ulsan 2 Gwangju 0; Pohang 2 Incheon 2.

SOUTH KOREA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Seoul	24	15	3	6	41	21	48
Chonbuk	24	14	5	5	49	29	47
Pohang	23	10	11	2	47	28	41
Songnam	24	10	6	8	30	26	36
Chunnam	24	9	7	8	37	38	34
Incheon	24	8	10	6	26	27	34
Ulsan	25	8	9	8	31	27	33
Gyeongnam	24	7	10	7	28	27	31
Gwangju	24	9	3	12	28	29	30
Suwon	24	7	7	10	25	27	28
Daejeon	24	6	9	9	23	32	27
Jeju	24	7	6	11	22	38	27
Busan	25	6	7	12	31	39	25
Gangwon	24	6	7	11	39	51	25
Daegu	25	5	8	12	20	38	23

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Under-17s...2007 winners Nigeria

November 7
African Champions League Final 2nd leg; Asian Champions League Final
November 14
World Cup qualifying play-offs 1st leg and final round of African group games
November 15
Under-17 World Cup Final
November 18
World Cup qualifying play-offs 2nd leg

ENGLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

SQUADS 2009-10

ARSENAL

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Manuel ALMUNIA (Spa)	16.05.77
21	Lukasz FABIANSKI (Pol)	18.04.85
24	Vito MANNONE (Ita)	02.03.88
53	Wojciech SZCZESNY (Pol)	18.04.90
DEFENDERS		
22	Gael CLICHY (Fra)	26.07.85
20	Johan DJOUROU (Swi)	18.01.87
27	Emmanuel EBOUE (IvC)	04.06.83
10	William GALLAS (Fra)	17.08.77
44	Gavin HOYTE	06.06.90
3	Bakari SAGNA (Fra)	14.02.83
6	Philippe SENDEROS (Swi)	14.02.85
18	Mikael SILVESTRE (Fra)	09.08.77
30	Armand TRAORE (Fra)	08.10.89
5	Thomas VERMAELEN (Bel)	14.11.85
MIDFIELDERS		
4	CESC Fabregas (Spa)	04.05.87
15	DENILSON (Bra)	16.02.88
2	Abou DIABY (Fra)	11.05.86
28	Kieran GIBBS	26.09.89
32	Fran MERIDA (Spa)	04.03.90
8	Samir NASRI (Fra)	26.06.87
16	Aaron RAMSEY (Wal)	26.12.90
7	Tomas ROSICKY (Cze)	04.10.80
17	Alexandre SONG (Cam)	09.09.87
19	Jack WILSHERE	01.01.92
FORWARDS		
23	Andrei ARSHAVIN (Rus)	29.05.81
52	Nicklas BENDTNER (Den)	16.01.88
9	EDUARDO (Cro)	25.02.83
11	Robin VAN PERSIE (Hol)	06.08.83
12	Carlos VELA (Mex)	01.03.89
14	Theo WALCOTT	16.03.89
MANAGER		
Arsene WENGER (Fra)		22.10.49

ASTON VILLA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Brad FRIEDEL (USA)	18.05.71
22	Brad GUZAN (USA)	09.09.84
33	Andy MARSHALL	14.04.75
DEFENDERS		
23	Habib BEYE (Sen)	19.10.77
3	Wilfred BOUMA (Hol)	15.06.78
47	Ciaran CLARK	26.09.89
29	James COLLINS (Wal)	23.04.83
24	Carlos CUELLAR (Spa)	23.08.81
15	Curtis DAVIES	15.03.85
5	Richard DUNNE (Ire)	21.09.79
21	Nicky SHOREY	19.02.81
25	Stephen WARNOCK	12.12.81
2	Luke YOUNG	19.07.79
MIDFIELDERS		
12	Marc ALBRIGHTON	18.11.89
46	Barry BANNAN (Sco)	01.12.89
16	Fabian DELPH	21.11.89
6	Stewart DOWNING	22.07.84
26	Craig GARDNER	25.11.86
49	Chris HERD (Aus)	04.04.89
8	James MILNER	04.01.86
27	Isaiah OSBOURNE	05.11.87
19	Stiliyan PETROV (Bul)	05.07.79
20	Nigel REO-COKER	14.05.84
17	Moustapha SALIFOU (Tog)	01.06.83
4	Steve SIDWELL	14.12.82
7	Ashley YOUNG	09.07.85
FORWARDS		
11	Gabriel AGBONLAHOR	13.10.86
10	John CAREW (Nor)	05.09.79
14	Nathan DELFOUNESO	02.02.91
18	Emile HESKEY	11.01.78
MANAGER		
Martin O'NEILL (Nir)		01.03.52

BIRMINGHAM CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Colin DOYLE (Ire)	12.08.85
25	Joe HART	19.04.87
1	Maik TAYLOR (Nir)	04.09.71
DEFENDERS		
2	Stephen CARR (Ire)	29.08.76
15	Scott DANN	14.02.87
17	Giovanny ESPINOZA (Ecu)	12.04.77
14	Roger JOHNSON	28.04.83
3	David MURPHY	01.03.84
21	Stuart PARNABY	19.07.82
20	Franck QUEUDRUE (Fra)	25.08.78
6	Liam RIDGEWELL	21.07.84
5	Martin TAYLOR	09.11.79
27	Gregory VIGNAL (Fra)	19.07.81
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Lee BOWYER	03.01.77
26	Lee CARSLEY (Ire)	28.02.74
12	Barry FERGUSON (Sco)	02.02.78
18	Keith FAHEY (Ire)	15.01.83
22	Damien JOHNSON (Nir)	18.11.78
7	Sebastian LARSSON (Swe)	06.06.85
19	Gary McSHEFFREY	13.08.82
24	Jay O'SHEA (Ire)	10.08.88
29	Ashley SAMMONS	10.11.91
28	Teemu TAINIO (Fin)	27.11.79
FORWARDS		
11	Cristian "Chucho" BENITEZ (Ecu)	01.05.86
23	Marcus BENT	19.05.78
10	Cameron JEROME	14.08.86
16	James McFADDEN (Sco)	14.04.83
8	Garry O'CONNOR (Sco)	07.05.83
9	Kevin PHILLIPS	25.07.73
MANAGER		
Alex McLEISH (Sco)		21.01.59

BLACKBURN ROVERS

GOALKEEPERS		
32	Jason BROWN (Wal)	18.05.82
34	Frank FIELDING	04.04.88
1	Paul ROBINSON	15.10.79
DEFENDERS		
39	Pascal CHIMBONDA (Fra)	21.02.79
5	Gael GIVET (Fra)	09.10.81
28	Phil JONES	21.02.92
2	Lars JACOBSEN (Den)	20.09.79
6	Ryan NELSEN (NZ)	18.10.77
21	Martin OLSSON (Swe)	17.05.88
27	Michel SALGADO (Spa)	22.10.75
4	Christopher SAMBA (Con)	28.03.84
MIDFIELDERS		
17	Keith ANDREWS (Ire)	13.09.80
8	David DUNN	27.12.79
7	Brett EMERTON (Aus)	22.02.79
11	Vincenzo GRELLA (Aus)	05.10.79
15	Steven N'ZONZI (Fra)	15.12.88
12	Morten Gamst PEDERSEN (Nor)	08.09.81
16	Steven REID (Ire)	10.03.81
20	Elrio VAN HEERDEN (SAf)	11.07.83
FORWARDS		
18	El-Hadji DIOUF (Sen)	15.01.81
26	Franco DI SANTO (Arg)	07.04.89
23	David HOILETT (Can)	05.06.90
22	Nikola KALINIC (Cro)	05.01.88
10	Benni McCARTHY (SA)	12.11.77
9	Jason ROBERTS (Grn)	25.01.78
MANAGER		
Sam ALLARDYCE		19.10.54

BOLTON WANDERERS

GOALKEEPERS		
26	Ali AL HABSI (Oma)	30.12.81
22	Jussi JAASKELAINEN (Fin)	19.04.75
DEFENDERS		
5	Gary CAHILL	19.12.85
2	Nicky HUNT	03.09.83
12	Zat KNIGHT	02.05.80
31	Andy O'BRIEN (Ire)	29.06.79
18	Sam RICKETTS (Wal)	11.10.81
4	Paul ROBINSON	14.12.78
3	Jlloyd SAMUEL	26.03.81
24	Danny SHITTU (Nig)	02.09.80
15	Gretar STEINSSON (Ice)	09.01.82
MIDFIELDERS		
30	Chris BASHAM	20.07.88
21	Tamir COHEN (Isr)	04.03.84
16	Mark DAVIES	18.02.88
23	Sean DAVIS	20.09.79
11	Ricardo GARDNER (Jam)	25.09.78
27	LEE Chung-yong (SKo)	02.07.88
19	Gavin McCANN	10.01.78
32	Aaron MOOY (Aus)	15.09.90
6	Fabrice MUAMBA	06.04.88
8	Joey O'BRIEN (Ire)	17.02.86
7	Matthew TAYLOR	27.11.81
33	Danny WARD	11.12.91
FORWARDS		
14	Kevin DAVIES	26.03.77
9	Johan ELMANDER (Swe)	27.05.81
34	Zoltan HARSANYI (Slk)	01.06.87
17	Ivan KLASNIC (Cro)	29.01.80
10	Riga MUSTAPHA (Hol)	10.10.81
29	Ricardo VAZ TE (Por)	01.10.86
MANAGER		
Gary MEGSON		02.05.59

BURNLEY

GOALKEEPERS		
12	Brian JENSEN (Den)	08.06.75
1	Diego PENNY (Per)	22.04.84
DEFENDERS		
2	Graham ALEXANDER (Sco)	10.10.71
21	Andre BIKEY (Cam)	08.01.85
6	Stephen CALDWELL (Sco)	12.09.80
5	Clarke CARLISLE	14.10.79
4	Michael DUFF (Nir)	11.01.78
24	Brian EASTON (Sco)	05.03.88
17	Richard ECKERSLEY	12.03.89
15	David EDGAR (Can)	19.05.87
40	Ben HOSKIN	08.10.90
23	Stephen JORDAN	06.03.82
3	Christian KALVENES (Nor)	08.03.77
36	Nik KUDIERSKY	15.02.91
14	Tyrone MEARS	18.02.83
MIDFIELDERS		
37	Chris ANDERSON	02.10.90
33	Chris EAGLES	19.11.85
11	Wade ELLIOTT	14.12.78
8	Joey GUDJONSSON (Ice)	25.05.80
32	Fernando GUERRERO (Ecu)	30.09.89
38	Alex-Ray HARVEY	04.04.90
16	Chris McCANN (Ire)	21.07.87
7	Kevin McDONALD (Sco)	04.11.88
26	Remco VAN DER SCHAAF (Hol)	28.02.79
FORWARDS		
20	Robbie BLAKE	04.03.76
9	Steven FLETCHER (Sco)	26.03.87
22	David NUGENT	02.05.85
10	Martin PATERSON (Nir)	10.05.87
19	Jay RODRIGUEZ	29.07.89
30	Steven THOMPSON (Sco)	14.10.78
MANAGER		
Owen COYLE (Sco)		14.07.66

CHELSEA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Petr CECH (Cze)	20.05.82
40	HILARIO (Por)	21.10.75
30	Rhys TAYLOR (Wal)	07.04.90
22	Ross TURNBULL	04.01.85
DEFENDERS		
33	ALEX (Bra)	17.06.82
35	Juliano BELLETTI (Bra)	20.06.76
17	Jose BOSINGWA (Por)	24.08.82
43	Jeffrey BRUMA (Hol)	13.11.91
6	Ricardo CARVALHO (Por)	18.05.78
3	Ashley COLE	20.12.80
19	Paulo FERREIRA (Por)	18.01.79
41	Sam HUTCHINSON	03.08.89
2	Branislav IVANOVIC (Ser)	22.02.84
26	John TERRY	07.12.80
MIDFIELDERS		
13	Michael BALLACK (Ger)	26.09.76
10	Joe COLE	08.11.81
20	DECO (Por)	27.08.77
5	Michael ESSIEN (Gha)	03.12.82
8	Frank LAMPARD	20.06.78
15	Florent MALOUDA (Fra)	13.06.80
24	Nemanja MATIC (Ser)	01.08.88
12	John Obi MIKEL (Nig)	22.04.87
18	Yuri ZHIRKOV (Rus)	20.06.83
FORWARDS		
39	Nicolas ANELKA (Fra)	14.03.79
45	Fabio BORINI (Ita)	23.03.91
11	Didier DROGBA (IvC)	11.03.78
44	Gael KAKUTA (Fra)	21.06.91
21	Salomon KALOU (IvC)	05.08.85
23	Daniel STURRIDGE	01.09.89
MANAGER		
Carlo ANCELOTTI (Ita)		10.06.59

EVERTON

GOALKEEPERS		
24	Tim HOWARD (USA)	06.03.79
1	Carlo NASH	13.09.73
12	Iain TURNER (Sco)	26.01.84
DEFENDERS		
3	Leighton BAINES	11.12.84
15	Sylvain DISTIN (Fra)	16.12.77
34	Shane DUFFY (Nir)	01.01.92
32	Luke GARBUTT	21.05.93
5	John HEITINGA (Hol)	15.11.83
2	Tony HIBBERT	20.02.81
6	Phil JAGIELKA	17.08.82
43	Shkodran MUSTAFI (Ger)	17.04.92
23	Lucas NEILL (Aus)	09.03.78
18	Phil NEVILLE	21.01.77
26	Jack RODWELL	11.03.91
4	Joseph YOBO (Nig)	06.09.80
MIDFIELDERS		
39	Hope AKPAN	14.08.91
10	Mikel ARTETA (Spa)	26.03.82
7	Diniyar BILYALETDINOV (Rus)	27.02.85
17	Tim CAHILL (Aus)	06.12.79
25	Marouane FELLAINI (Bel)	22.11.87
19	Dan GOSLING	02.02.90
21	Leon OSMAN	17.05.81
20	Steven PIENAAR (SAf)	17.03.82
38	James WALLACE	19.12.91
FORWARDS		
35	Kieran AGARD	10.10.89
28	Victor ANICHEBE (Nig)	23.04.88
37	Jose BAXTER	07.02.92
11	JO (Bra)	20.03.87
8	Louis SAHA (Fra)	08.08.78
22	YAKUBU Aiyegbeni (Nig)	22.11.82
MANAGER		
David MOYES (Sco)		25.04.63

FULHAM

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Mark SCHWARZER (Aus)	06.10.72
12	David STOCKDALE	20.09.85
19	Pascal ZUBERBUHLER (Swi)	08.01.71
DEFENDERS		
36	Joe ANDERSON	13.10.89
6	Chris BAIRD (Nir)	25.02.82
5	Brede HANGELAND (Nor)	20.06.81
18	Aaron HUGHES (Nir)	08.11.79
33	Toni KALLIO (Fin)	09.08.78
2	Stephen KELLY (Ire)	06.09.83
3	Paul KONCHESKY	15.05.81
24	Robert MILSOM	02.01.87
4	John PAINTSIL (Gha)	15.06.81
26	Chris SMALLING	22.11.89
MIDFIELDERS		
14	ANDRANIK Teymourian (Irn)	06.03.83
29	Simon DAVIES (Wal)	23.10.79
23	Clint DEMPSEY (USA)	09.03.83
34	Kagiso DIKGACOI (SAf)	24.11.84
16	Damien DUFF (Ire)	02.03.79
20	Dickson ETUHU (Nig)	08.06.82
11	Zoltan GERA (Hun)	22.04.79
27	Jonathan GREENING	02.01.79
13	Danny MURPHY	18.03.77
17	Bjorn Helge RIISE (Nor)	21.06.83
FORWARDS		
35	David ELM (Swe)	10.01.83
8	Andy JOHNSON	10.02.81
21	Eddie JOHNSON (USA)	31.03.84
15	Diomansy KAMARA (Sen)	08.11.80
10	Erik NEVLAND (Nor)	10.11.77
7	SEOL Ki-hyeon (SKo)	08.01.79
25	Bobby ZAMORA	16.01.81
MANAGER		
Roy HODGSON		09.08.47

HULL CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
12	Matthew DUKE	16.07.77
1	Boaz MYHILL (Wal)	09.11.82
26	Tony WARNER (Tri)	11.05.74
DEFENDERS		
35	Liam COOPER (Sco)	03.08.91
3	Andy DAWSON	20.10.78
5	Anthony GARDNER	19.09.80
39	Steve GARDNER	12.05.90
6	Paul McSHANE (Ire)	06.01.86
15	Bernard MENDY (Fra)	20.06.81
19	Steven MOUYOKOLO (Fra)	24.01.87
28	Ibrahima SONKO (Sen)	22.01.81
24	Kamil ZAYATTE (Gui)	07.03.85
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Ian ASHBEE	06.09.76
31	Will ATKINSON	14.10.88
8	Nick BARMBY	11.02.74
20	George BOATENG (Hol)	05.09.75
21	Jimmy BULLARD	23.10.78
10	GEOVANNI (Bra)	11.01.80
16	Peter HALMOSI (Hun)	25.09.79
11	Stephen HUNT (Ire)	01.08.81
17	Kevin KILBANE (Ire)	01.02.77
22	Dean MARNEY	31.01.84
44	Seyi OLOFINJANA (Nig)	30.06.80
FORWARDS		
9	Jozy ALTIDORE (USA)	06.11.89
25	Daniel COUSIN (Gab)	07.02.77
7	Craig FAGAN	11.12.82
27	Nicky FEATHERSTONE	22.09.88
14	Richard GARCIA (Aus)	04.09.81
23	Kamel GHILAS (Alg)	09.03.84
29	Jan VENNEGOOR OF HESSELINK (Hol)	07.11.78
MANAGER		
Phil BROWN		30.05.59

SQUADS 2009-10

LIVERPOOL

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Diego CAVALIERI (Bra)	01.12.82
44	David MARTIN	22.01.86
25	Pepe REINA (Spa)	31.08.82
DEFENDERS		
5	Daniel AGGER (Den)	12.12.84
40	Daniel Sanchez AYALA (Spa)	07.11.90
23	Jamie CARRAGHER	28.01.78
32	Stephen DARBY	06.10.88
27	Philipp DEGEN (Swi)	15.02.83
38	Andrea DOSSENA (Ita)	11.09.81
12	FABIO AURELIO (Bra)	24.09.79
22	Emiliano INSUA (Arg)	07.01.89
36	Steven IRWIN	29.09.90
2	Glen JOHNSON	23.08.84
34	Martin KELLY	27.04.90
16	Sotirios KYRGIAKOS (Gre)	23.07.79
37	Martin SKRTEL (Slk)	15.12.84
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Alberto AQUILANI (Ita)	07.07.84
15	Yossi BENAYOUN (Isr)	05.05.80
31	Nabil EL ZHAR (Mor)	27.08.86
8	Steven GERRARD	30.05.80
21	LUCAS (Bra)	09.01.87
20	Javier MASCHERANO (Arg)	08.06.84
28	Damien PLESSIS (Fra)	05.03.88
11	Albert RIERA (Spa)	15.04.82
26	Jay SPEARING	25.11.88
FORWARDS		
19	Ryan BABEL (Hol)	19.12.86
18	Dirk KUYT (Hol)	22.07.80
24	David N'GOG (Fra)	01.04.89
9	Fernando TORRES (Spa)	20.03.84
10	Andriy VORONIN (Ukr)	21.07.79
MANAGER		
Rafael BENITEZ (Spa)		04.0460

MANCHESTER CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Shay GIVEN (Ire)	24.04.76
37	Gunnar NIELSEN (Far)	07.10.86
12	Stuart TAYLOR	28.11.80
DEFENDERS		
3	Wayne BRIDGE	05.08.80
15	Javier GARRIDO (Spa)	15.03.85
33	Vincent KOMPANY (Bel)	10.04.86
19	Joleon LESCOTT	16.08.82
41	Ben MEE	21.09.89
4	Nedum ONUOHA	30.11.86
2	Micah RICHARDS	24.06.88
16	SYLVINHO (Bra)	12.04.74
28	Kolo TOURE (IvC)	19.03.81
36	Javan VIDAL	10.05.89
5	Pablo ZABALETA (Arg)	16.01.85
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Gareth BARRY	23.02.81
34	Nigel DE JONG (Hol)	30.11.84
7	Stephen IRELAND (Ire)	22.08.86
6	Michael JOHNSON	24.02.88
35	Scott KAY	18.09.89
42	Karl MOORE (Ire)	09.11.88
17	Martin PETROV (Bul)	15.01.79
40	Vladimir WEISS (Slk)	30.11.89
8	Shaun WRIGHT-PHILLIPS	25.10.81
FORWARDS		
25	Emmanuel ADEBAYOR (Tog)	26.02.84
39	Craig BELLAMY (Wal)	13.01.79
27	BENJANI Mwarowari (Zim)	13.08.78
31	Adam CLAYTON	14.01.89
10	ROBINHO (Bra)	25.01.84
14	Roque SANTA CRUZ (Par)	16.08.81
32	Carlos TEVEZ (Arg)	05.02.84
MANAGER		
Mark HUGHES (Wal)		01.11.63

MANCHESTER UNITED

GOALKEEPERS		
12	Ben FOSTER	03.04.83
29	Tomasz KUSZCZAK (Pol)	20.03.82
1	Edwin VAN DER SAR (Hol)	29.10.70
DEFENDERS		
6	Wes BROWN	13.10.79
30	Ritchie DE LAET (Bel)	28.11.88
23	Jonny EVANS (Nir)	03.01.88
3	Patrice EVRA (Fra)	15.05.81
20	FABIO (Bra)	09.07.90
5	Rio FERDINAND	07.11.78
2	Gary NEVILLE	18.02.75
22	John O'SHEA (Ire)	30.04.81
21	RAFAEL (Bra)	09.07.90
15	Nemanja VIDIC (Ser)	21.10.81
MIDFIELDERS		
8	ANDERSON (Bra)	13.04.88
16	Michael CARRICK	28.07.81
24	Darren FLETCHER (Sco)	01.02.84
28	Darron GIBSON (Ire)	25.10.87
11	Ryan GIGGS (Wal)	29.11.73
4	Owen HARGREAVES	20.01.81
17	NANI (Por)	17.11.86
13	PARK Ji-sung (SKo)	25.02.81
18	Paul SCHOLES	16.11.74
14	Zoran TOSIC (Ser)	28.04.87
25	Antonio VALENCIA (Ecu)	04.08.85
FORWARDS		
9	Dimitar BERBATOV (Bul)	30.01.81
27	Federico MACHEDA (Ita)	22.08.91
26	Gabriel OBERTAN (Fra)	26.02.89
7	Michael OWEN	14.12.79
10	Wayne ROONEY	24.10.85
19	Danny WELBECK	26.11.90
MANAGER		
Alex FERGUSON (Sco)		31.12.41

PORTSMOUTH

GOALKEEPER		
21	Jamie ASHDOWN	30.11.80
31	Asmir BEGOVIC (Can)	20.06.87
1	David JAMES	01.08.70
15	Antti NIEMI (Fin)	31.05.72
DEFENDERS		
39	Nadir BELHADJ (Alg)	18.06.82
26	Tal BEN HAIM (Isr)	31.03.82
16	Steve FINNAN (Ire)	20.04.76
7	Hermann HREIDARSSON (Ice)	11.07.74
43	James HURST	30.01.92
3	Younes KABOUL (Fra)	04.01.86
4	Aaron MOKDENA (Saf)	25.11.80
2	Linvoy PRIMUS	14.09.73
18	Anthony VANDEN BORRE (Bel)	24.10.87
40	Joel WARD	29.10.89
14	Michael WILLIAMSON	08.11.83
MIDFIELDERS		
33	Aggelos BASINAS (Gre)	03.01.76
23	Kevin-Prince BOATENG (Ger)	06.03.87
8	Pape BOUBA DIOP (Sen)	28.01.78
11	Michael BROWN	25.01.77
22	Richard HUGHES (Sco)	25.06.79
6	Hayden MULLINS	27.03.79
5	Jamie O'HARA	25.09.86
35	Marc WILSON (Ire)	17.08.87
32	Hassan YEBDA (Fra)	14.05.84
FORWARDS		
24	Aruna DINDANE (IvC)	26.11.80
27	Nwankwo KANU (Nig)	01.08.76
9	Frederic PIQUIONNE (Fra)	08.12.78
20	Tommy SMITH	22.05.80
17	John UTAKA (Nig)	08.01.82
19	Danny WEBBER	28.12.81
MANAGER		
Paul HART		04.05.53

STOKE CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
43	Dave PARTON	22.11.92
1	Steve SIMONSEN	03.04.79
29	Thomas SORENSEN (Den)	12.06.76
DEFENDERS		
22	Danny COLLINS (Wal)	06.08.80
5	Leon CORT	11.09.79
25	Abdoulaye FAYE (Sen)	26.02.78
2	Andy GRIFFIN	17.03.79
3	Danny HIGGINBOTHAM	29.12.78
4	Robert HUTH (Ger)	18.08.84
17	Ryan SHAWCROSS	04.10.87
28	Andy WILKINSON	06.08.84
MIDFIELDERS		
32	Diego ARISMENDI (Uru)	25.01.88
24	Rory DELAP (Ire)	06.07.76
15	Salif DIAO (Sen)	10.02.77
26	Matthew ETHERINGTON	14.08.81
19	Amdy FAYE (Sen)	12.03.77
7	Liam LAWRENCE (Ire)	14.12.81
36	Matthew LUND	21.11.90
14	Danny PUGH	19.10.82
8	Tom SOARES	10.07.86
23	Michael TONGE	07.04.83
37	Nathaniel WEDDERBURN	30.06.91
6	Glenn WHELAN (Ire)	13.01.84
18	Dean WHITEHEAD	12.01.82
FORWARDS		
9	James BEATTIE	27.02.78
16	Richard CRESSWELL	20.09.77
10	Ricardo FULLER (Jam)	31.10.79
12	Dave KITSON	21.01.80
11	Mamady SIDIBE (Mli)	18.12.79
20	TUNCAY Sanli (Tur)	16.01.82
MANAGER		
Tony PULIS (Wal)		16.01.58

SUNDERLAND

GOALKEEPERS		
24	Trevor CARSON (Nir)	05.03.88
32	Marton FULOP (Hun)	03.05.83
1	Craig GORDON (Sco)	31.12.82
DEFENDERS		
27	Russell ANDERSON (Sco)	25.10.78
2	Phillip BARDSLEY	28.06.85
22	Paulo DA SILVA (Par)	01.02.80
5	Anton FERDINAND	18.02.85
3	George McCARTNEY (Nir)	29.04.81
12	John MENSAH (Gha)	29.11.82
6	Nyron NOSWORTHY (Jam)	11.10.80
4	Michael TURNER	09.11.83
MIDFIELDERS		
19	Lorik CANA (Alb)	27.07.83
39	Lee CATTERMOLE	21.03.88
16	Jordan HENDERSON	17.06.90
8	Steed MALBRANQUE (Fra)	06.01.80
20	Andy REID (Ire)	29.07.82
10	Kieran RICHARDSON	21.10.84
FORWARDS		
11	Darren BENT	06.02.84
9	Fraizer CAMPBELL	13.09.87
23	David HEALY (Nir)	05.08.79
17	Kenwyne JONES (Tri)	05.10.84
14	Daryl MURPHY (Ire)	15.03.83
MANAGER		
Steve BRUCE		31.12.60

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

GOALKEEPERS		
27	Ben ALNWICK	01.01.87
23	Carlo CUDICINI (Ita)	06.09.73
1	Heurelho GOMES (Bra)	15.02.81
13	Jimmy WALKER	09.07.73
DEFENDERS		
32	Benoit ASSOU-EKOTTO (Cam)	24.03.84
3	Gareth BALE (Wal)	16.07.89
19	Sebastien BASSONG (Cam)	09.07.86
22	Vedran CORLUKA (Cro)	05.02.66
20	Michael DAWSON	18.11.83
30	Dorian DERVITE (Fra)	25.07.88
6	Tom HUDDLESTONE	28.12.86
2	Alan HUTTON (Sco)	30.11.84
26	Ledley KING	12.10.80
16	Kyle NAUGHTON	11.11.88
39	Jonathan WOODGATE	22.01.80
MIDFIELDERS		
5	David BENTLEY	27.08.84
8	Jermaine JENAS	18.02.83
21	Niko KRANJCAR (Cro)	13.08.84
7	Aaron LENNON	16.04.87
14	Luka MODRIC (Cro)	09.09.85
12	Wilson PALACIOS (Hon)	29.07.84
FORWARDS		
15	Peter CROUCH	30.01.81
18	Jermain DEFOE	07.10.82
17	GIOVANI dos Santos (Mex)	11.05.89
10	Robbie KEANE (Ire)	08.07.80
9	Roman PAVLYUCHENKO (Rus)	15.12.81
MANAGER		
Harry REDKNAPP		02.03.47

WEST HAM UNITED

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Robert GREEN	18.01.80
28	Peter KURUCZ (Hun)	30.05.88
29	Marek STECH (Cze)	28.01.90
DEFENDERS		
22	Manuel DA COSTA (Por)	06.05.86
33	Fabio DAPRELA (Swi)	19.02.91
27	Calum DAVENPORT	01.01.83
20	Julien FAUBERT (Fra)	01.08.83
4	Danny GABBIDON (Wal)	08.08.79
23	Herita ILUNGA (DRC)	25.02.82
14	Radoslav KOVAC Cze)	27.11.79
18	Jonathan SPECTOR (USA)	03.01.86
30	James TOMKINS	29.03.89
15	Matthew UPSON	18.04.79
MIDFIELDERS		
21	Valon BEHRAMI (Swi)	19.04.85
13	Luis BOA MORTE (Por)	04.08.77
31	Jack COLLISON (Wal)	02.10.88
7	Kieron DYER	29.12.78
17	Luis JIMENEZ (Chi)	17.06.84
34	Oliver LEE	11.07.91
16	Mark NOBLE	08.05.87
8	Scott PARKER	13.10.80
35	Josh PAYNE	25.11.90
26	Nigel QUASHIE (Sco)	20.07.78
46	Junior STANISLAS	26.11.89
FORWARDS		
9	Dean ASHTON	24.11.83
12	Carlton COLE	12.10.83
32	Alessandro DIAMANTI (Ita)	02.05.83
10	Guillermo FRANCO (Mex)	03.11.76
41	Zavon HINES (Jam)	27.12.88
24	Frank NOUBLE	24.09.91
MANAGER		
Gianfranco ZOLA (Ita)		05.07.66

WIGAN ATHLETIC

GOALKEEPERS		
22	Richard KINGSON (Gha)	13.06.78
1	Chris KIRKLAND	02.05.81
12	Mike POLLITT	29.02.72
DEFENDERS		
4	Antonio AMAYA (Spa)	31.05.83
17	Emmerson BOYCE (Brb)	24.09.79
19	Titus BRAMBLE	21.07.81
3	Erik EDMAN (Swe)	11.11.78
31	Maynor FIGUEROA (Hon)	02.05.83
25	Mario MELCHIOT (Hol)	04.11.76
7	Paul SCHARNER (Aut)	11.03.80
MIDFIELDERS		
5	CHO Won-hee (SKo)	17.04.83
21	Tomasz CYWKA (Pol)	27.06.88
18	Daniel DE RIDDER (Hol)	06.03.84
27	Mohamed DIAME (Fra)	14.06.87
15	Jordi GOMEZ (Spa)	24.05.85
40	Joe HOLT	01.02.90
23	Olivier KAPO (Fra)	27.09.80
10	Jason KOUMAS (Wal)	25.09.79
28	Tomasz KUPISZ (Pol)	02.01.90
24	James McCARTHY (Ire)	12.11.90
14	Charles N'ZOGBIA (Fra)	28.05.86
38	Jon ROUTLEDGE	23.11.89
6	Hendry THOMAS (Hon)	23.02.85
FORWARDS		
26	Rachid BOUAOUZAN (Hol)	20.02.84
30	Marlon KING (Jam)	26.04.80
43	Callum MCMANAMAN	25.04.91
20	Hugo RODALLEGA (Col)	25.07.85
9	Jason SCOTLAND (Tri)	18.02.79
16	Scott SINCLAIR	25.03.89
MANAGER		
Roberto MARTINEZ (Spa)		13.07.73

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Marcus HAHNEMANN (USA)	15.06.72
1	Wayne HENNESSEY (Wal)	24.01.87
30	Carl IKEME (Nig)	08.06.86
31	Matt MURRAY	02.05.81
DEFENDERS		
16	Christophe BERRA (Sco)	31.01.85
6	Jody CRADDOCK	25.07.75
36	Johnny DUNLEAVY (Ire)	03.07.91
3	George ELOKOBI (Cam)	31.01.86
32	Kevin FOLEY (Ire)	01.11.84
15	Greg HALFORD	08.12.84
26	Matthew HILL	26.03.81
27	Michael MANCIENNE	08.01.88
5	Richard STEARMAN	19.06.87
23	Ronald ZUBAR (Fra)	20.09.85
MIDFIELDERS		
37	Kyle BENNETT	09.09.90
35	Segundo CASTILLO (Ecu)	15.05.82
4	David EDWARDS (Wal)	03.02.86
8	Karl HENRY	26.11.82
17	Matthew JARVIS	22.05.86
14	David JONES	04.11.84
7	Michael KIGHTLY	24.01.86
20	Nenad MILIJAS (Ser)	30.04.83
12	Andrew SURMAN	20.08.86
FORWARDS		
29	Kevin DOYLE (Ire)	18.09.83
9	Sylvan EBANKS-BLAKE	29.03.86
19	Chris IWELUMO (Sco)	01.08.78
10	Andrew KEOGH (Ire)	16.05.86
33	Stefan MAIERHOFER (Aut)	16.08.82
18	Sam VOKES (Wal)	21.10.89
11	Stephen WARD (Ire)	20.08.85
MANAGER		
Mick McCARTHY (Ire)		07.02.59

FRANCE LIGUE 1

SQUADS 2009-10

AUXERRE

GOALKEEPERS		
40	Willy MAEYENS	05.06.89
16	Remy RIOU	06.08.87
1	Olivier SORIN	16.04.81
DEFENDERS		
23	Jeremy BERTHOD	24.04.84
6	Adama COULIBALY (Mli)	09.10.80
5	Dariusz DUDKA (Pol)	09.12.83
4	Stephane GRITCHING (Swi)	30.03.79
2	Cedric HENGBART	13.07.80
24	Amara KALLE (Mli)	19.09.90
32	Kevin MALAGA	24.06.87
15	Baptiste MARTIN	14.05.85
12	Jean-Pascal MIGNOT	26.02.81
28	Robert POPOV (Bul)	16.04.82
20	Amadou SIDIBE (Mli)	19.02.86
MIDFIELDERS		
34	Vincent ACAPANDIE	09.02.90
8	Aurelien CAPOUE	28.02.82
7	Kamel CHAFNI (Mor)	11.06.82
18	Roy CONTOUT	11.02.85
3	Moussa NARRY (Gha)	19.04.86
29	Delvin NDINGA (Con)	03.04.88
17	Benoit PEDRETTI	12.11.80
27	Alain TRAORE (BuF)	31.12.88
FORWARDS		
26	Anicet ANDRIANANTENAINA	16.03.90
9	Valter BIRSA (Sln)	07.08.86
22	Ireneusz JELEN (Pol)	09.04.81
10	Alexandre LICATA	02.01.84
13	Kevin LEJEUNE	22.01.85
21	Daniel NICULAE (Rom)	06.10.82
14	Dennis OLIECH (Ken)	02.02.85
11	Julien QUERCIA	17.08.86
COACH		
Jean FERNANDEZ		08.10.54

BORDEAUX

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Cedric CARASSO	30.12.81
33	Fabien FARNOLLE	02.02.85
30	Abdoulaye KEITA	16.08.90
16	Ulrich RAME	19.09.72
DEFENDERS		
21	Mathieu CHALME	07.10.80
2	Michael CIANI	06.04.84
3	HENRIQUE (Bra)	02.05.83
6	Franck JURIETTI	30.03.75
13	Diego PLACENTE (Arg)	24.04.77
27	Marc PLANUS	07.03.82
25	Ludovic SANE	22.03.87
28	Benoit TREMOULINAS	28.12.85
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Alou DIARRA	15.07.81
5	FERNANDO Menegazzo (Bra)	03.05.81
7	Yoan GOUFFRAN	25.05.86
8	Yoann GOURCUFF	11.07.86
12	Paul LASNE	16.01.89
18	Jaroslav PLASIL (Cze)	05.01.82
22	Gregory SERTIC	05.08.89
24	Abdou TRAORE (Mli)	17.01.88
17	WENDEL (Bra)	08.04.82
FORWARDS		
11	David BELLION	27.11.82
9	Fernando CAVENAGHI (Arg)	21.09.83
29	Marouane CHAMAKH (Mor)	10.01.84
10	JUSSIE (Bra)	19.09.83
20	Henri SAIVET	26.10.90
COACH		
Laurent BLANC		19.11.65

BOULOGNE

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Florian BAGUE	27.07.84
30	Jean-Francois BEDENIK	20.11.78
16	Ibrahim KONE (IvC)	05.12.89
40	Matthieu VALVERDE	14.05.83
DEFENDERS		
13	Olubayo ADEFEMI (Nig)	13.08.85
12	Guillaume BORNE	12.02.88
6	Kevin DAS NEVES	08.05.86
23	Bira DEMBELE	22.03.88
3	Yoann LACHOR	17.01.76
22	Antony LECOINTE	05.10.80
25	Damien MARCQ	08.12.88
5	Damien PERRINELLE	12.09.83
2	Nicolas RABUEL	15.01.78
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Laurent AGOUAZI	16.03.84
19	Alexandre CUVILLIER	17.06.86
9	Frederic DA ROCHA	16.09.74
11	Guillaume DUCATEL	21.01.79
15	Ovidy KARURU (Zim)	23.01.89
21	Dorian LEVEQUE	22.11.89
28	Mame N'DIAYE (Sen)	11.01.86
8	Johann RAMARE	05.06.84
29	Zargo TOURE (Sen)	11.11.89
FORWARDS		
14	Jeremy BLAYAC	13.06.83
27	Lakdar BOUSSAHA	18.07.87
7	Daniel MOREIRA	08.08.77
17	Fabien ROBERT	06.01.89
20	Ibrahima SANE (Sen)	28.11.89
10	Gregory THIL	15.03.80
COACH		
Laurent GUYOT		17.13.69

GRENOBLE

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Ronan LE CROM	13.07.74
16	Brice MAUBLEU	01.12.89
1	Jody VIVIANI	25.01.82
DEFENDERS		
12	Bostjan CESAR (Sln)	09.07.82
25	Hugo CIANCI	09.06.89
14	David JEMMALI (Tun)	13.12.74
29	Jimmy MAINFROIS	28.03.83
3	Sandy PAILLOT	27.02.87
15	Zoran RENDULIC (Ser)	22.05.84
5	Martial ROBIN	27.08.77
23	David SAUGET	23.11.79
27	Milivoje VITAKIC (Ser)	16.05.77
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Laurent BATLLES	23.09.75
2	Laurent COURTOIS	11.09.78
7	Nicolas DIEUZE	07.02.79
8	Sofiane FEGHOULI	26.12.89
21	Jimmy JUAN	10.06.83
18	Laurent MACQUET	11.08.79
22	Daisuke MATSUI (Jap)	11.05.81
6	Alaixys ROMAO (Tog)	18.01.84
24	Jonathan TINHAN	01.06.89
FORWARDS		
17	Nassim AKROUR (Alg)	10.07.74
19	Pierre BOYA (Cam)	15.01.84
31	Mustafa KUCUKOVIC (Ger)	05.11.86
28	Danijel LJUBOJA (Ser)	04.09.78
20	Sho ITO (Jap)	24.07.88
26	Yoric RAVET	09.12.89
9	Josip TADIC (Cro)	22.08.87
COACH		
Mecha BAZDAREVIC (Bos)		28.09.60

LE MANS

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Georgi MAKARIDZE (Geo)	31.03.90
1	Didier OVONO (Gab)	23.01.83
16	Rodolphe ROCHE	14.06.79
DEFENDERS		
23	Joao Paulo ANDRADE (Por)	06.06.81
24	Ludovic BAAL	24.05.86
3	Saber BEN FREJ (Tun)	03.07.79
18	Samuel BOUHOURS	26.06.87
29	Ibrahima CAMARA (Gui)	01.01.85
5	Gregory CERDAN	28.07.82
28	Sebastien CORCHIA	01.11.90
37	Dominique ESSOME BAYI (Cam)	05.05.89
2	Antonio GEDER (Bra)	23.04.78
13	Cyriaque LOUVION	24.07.87
MIDFIELDERS		
33	Fousseyni CISSE	17.07.89
14	Mathieu DOSSEVI	12.02.88
11	Marcelo ESTIGARRIBIA (Par)	21.09.87
26	Darryl Herold GOULON	12.06.88
15	Alphousseyni KEITA (Mli)	13.11.85
21	Guillaume LORIOT	21.05.86
36	Valentin NKWELLE (Cam)	16.06.86
17	Badara SENE (Sen)	19.11.84
7	Fredrik STROMSTAD (Nor)	20.01.82
8	Frederic THOMAS	10.08.80
19	Mamadou WAGUE	19.08.90
FORWARDS		
34	Patrick EKENG EKENG (Cam)	26.03.90
22	Thorstein HELSTAD (Nor)	28.04.77
25	Roland LAMAH (Bel)	31.12.87
10	Anthony LE TALLEC	03.10.84
9	Modibo MAIGA (Mli)	03.09.86
35	Idrissa SYLLA (Gui)	03.12.90
COACH		
Paulo DUARTE (Por)		06.04.69

LENS

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Samuel ATROUS	15.02.90
16	Hamdi KASRAOUI (Tun)	18.01.83
1	Vedran RUNJE (Cro)	10.02.76
DEFENDERS		
24	Eric CHELLE	11.11.77
4	Issam EL ADOUA (Mor)	09.12.86
20	Adil HERMACH	27.06.86
15	Fabien LAURENTI	06.01.83
2	Marco RAMOS (Por)	26.04.83
29	William REMY	04.04.91
19	Romain SARTRE	12.11.82
5	Ala-Eddine YAHIA (Tun)	26.08.81
MIDFIELDERS		
28	Kanga AKALE (IvC)	07.03.81
7	Abdoulrazak BOUKARI (Tog)	25.04.87
26	Yohan DEMONT	15.05.78
8	Geoffrey DOUMENG	09.11.80
23	Nenad KOVACEVIC (Ser)	11.11.80
10	Dejan MILOVANOVIC (Ser)	21.01.84
18	Sebastien ROUDET	16.06.81
27	Samba SOW (Mli)	29.04.89
FORWARDS		
11	EDUARDO (Bra)	05.08.80
22	Issam JEMAA (Tun)	28.01.84
25	Steeven JOSEPH-MONROSE	20.07.90
9	Toifilou MADULIDA	08.06.79
14	Kevin MONNET-PAQUET	19.08.88
COACH		
Jean-Guy WALLEMME		10.08.67

LILLE

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Ludovic BUTELLE	03.04.83
16	Mickael LANDREAU	14.05.79
40	Barel MOUKO (Con)	05.04.79
30	Alexandre OUKIDJA	19.07.88
DEFENDERS		
18	Franck BERIA	23.05.83
15	EMERSON Da Conceicao (Bra)	23.02.86
25	Nicolas PLESTAN	02.06.81
23	Adil RAMI	27.12.85
32	Pape N'Diaye SOUARE (Sen)	06.06.90
3	Jerry VANDAM	08.12.88
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Florent BALMONT	02.02.80
7	Yohan CABAYE	14.01.86
22	Aurelien CHEDJOU (Cam)	20.06.85
2	Mathieu DEBUCHY	28.07.85
29	Stephane DUMONT	06.09.82
26	Eden HAZARD (Bel)	07.01.91
24	Rio MAVUBA	08.03.84
10	Ludovic OBRANIAK (Pol)	10.11.84
5	Yannis SALIBUR	24.01.91
FORWARDS		
11	Pierre AUBAMEYANG (Gab)	18.06.89
9	Tulio DE MELO (Bra)	31.01.85
17	Pierre-Alain FRAU	15.04.80
27	GERVINHO (IvC)	27.05.87
28	Emil LYNG (Den)	03.08.89
20	Larsen TOURE (Gui)	20.07.84
14	Robert VITTEK (Slk)	01.04.82
COACH		
Rudy GARCIA		20.02.64

LORIENT

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Fabien AUDARD	28.03.78
1	Lionel CAPPONE	08.02.79
30	Alban JOINEL	14.09.79
DEFENDERS		
17	Maxime BACA	02.06.83
5	Benjamin GENTON	20.05.80
4	Laurent KOSCIELNY	10.09.85
14	Arnaud LE LAN	22.03.78
29	Sylvain MARCHAL	10.02.80
21	Namaie MENDY	20.05.89
15	Jeremy MOREL	02.04.84
2	Franco SOSA (Arg)	04.04.81
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Morgan AMALFITANO	20.03.85
22	Maxime BARTHELME	08.09.88
20	Rafik BOUDERBAL (Alg)	19.09.87
24	Antoine BURON	12.10.83
11	Sigamary DIARRA (Mli)	10.01.84
28	Pierre DUCASSE	07.05.87
12	James FANCHONE	21.02.80
8	Yann JOUFFRE	23.07.84
23	Yazid MANSOURI (Alg)	25.02.78
10	Olivier MONTERRUBIO	08.08.76
7	Arnold MVUEMBA	28.01.85
6	Gabriel PENALBA (Arg)	23.09.84
25	Jonas SAKUWAHA (Zam)	22.07.83
FORWARDS		
27	Yaye DIANE (Gui)	16.01.89
9	Kevin GAMEIRO	09.04.87
19	Marama VAHIRUA	12.05.80
COACH		
Christian GOURCUFF		05.04.55

LYON

GOALKEEPERS		
25	Joan HARTOCK	17.02.87
1	Hugo LLORIS	26.12.86
40	Anthony LOPES	01.01.90
30	Remy VERCOUTRE	26.06.80
DEFENDERS		
23	ANDERSON Cleber (Bra)	27.04.80
4	Jean-Alain BOUMSONG	14.12.79
20	Aly CISSOKHO	15.09.87
2	Francois CLERC	18.04.83
3	CRIS (Bra)	03.06.77
36	Sebastien FAURE	03.01.91
37	Thomas FONTAINE	08.05.91
32	Lamine GASSAMA	20.10.89
12	Timothee KOLODZIEJCZAK	01.10.91
13	Anthony REVEILLERE	10.11.79
35	Nicolas SEGUIN	06.03.90
MIDFIELDERS		
24	Romain BEYNIE	06.05.87
5	Mathieu BODMER	22.11.82
19	Cesar DELGADO (Arg)	18.08.81
10	EDERSON (Bra)	13.01.86
41	Maxime GONALONS	10.03.89
22	Clement GRENIER	07.01.91
6	Kim KALLSTROM (Swe)	24.08.82
17	Jean II MAKOUN (Cam)	29.05.83
31	Said MEHAMHA	04.09.90
7	MICHEL BASTOS (Bra)	02.08.83
8	Miralem PJANIC (Bos)	02.04.90
28	Jeremy TOULALAN	10.09.83
FORWARDS		
39	Ishak BELFODIL (Alg)	12.01.92
18	Bafetimbi GOMIS	06.08.85
14	Sidney GOVOU	27.07.79
9	LISANDRO Lopez (Arg)	02.03.83
29	Yannis TAFER	11.02.91
COACH		
Claude PUEL		02.09.61

MARSEILLE

GOALKEEPERS		
40	Elinton ANDRADE	30.03.79
30	Steve MANDANDA	28.03.85
16	Hilaire MUNOZ	21.04.83
1	Rudy RIOU	22.01.80
DEFENDERS		
2	Garry BOCALY	19.04.88
24	Laurent BONNART	25.12.79
21	Souleymane DIAWARA (Sen)	24.12.78
20	Charley Roussel FOMEN (Cam)	09.07.89
19	Gabriel HEINZE (Arg)	19.04.78
5	Vitorino HILTON (Bra)	13.09.77
27	Pape M'BOW (Sen)	22.05.88
4	Julien RODRIGUEZ	11.06.78
3	Taye TAIWO (Nig)	16.04.85
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Fabrice ABRIEL	06.07.79
7	Benoit CHEYROU	03.05.81
6	Edouard CISSE	30.03.78
12	Charles KABORE (BuF)	09.02.88
8	LUCHO Gonzalez (Arg)	19.01.81
17	Stephane MBIA (Cam)	20.05.86
34	Kevin OSEI (Gha)	26.03.91
22	Cyril ROOL	15.04.75
28	Mathieu VALBUENA	28.09.84
FORWARDS		
10	Hatem BEN ARFA	07.03.87
9	BRANDAO (Bra)	16.06.80
31	Guy Kassa GNABOUYOU	01.12.89
23	Fernando MORIENTES (Spa)	05.04.76
11	Mamadou NIANG (Sen)	13.10.79
14	Bakary KONE (IvC)	17.09.81
COACH		
Didier DESCHAMPS		15.10.68

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MONACO

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Stephane RUFFIER	27.09.86
1	Yohann THURAM-ULIEN	31.10.88
DEFENDERS		
12	ADRIANO Pereira (Bra)	03.04.82
32	Igor LOLO (IvC)	22.07.82
15	Thomas MANGANI	29.04.87
4	Francois MODESTO	19.08.78
2	Cedric MONGONGU (DRC)	22.06.89
19	Patrick MULLER (Swi)	17.12.76
13	Vincent MURATORI	03.08.87
28	Sebastien PUYGRENIER	28.01.82
3	Nicolas NKOULOU (Cam)	27.03.90
14	Dario SIMIC (Cro)	12.11.75
18	Djimi TRAORE (Mli)	01.03.80
MIDFIELDERS		
8	Alejandro ALONSO (Arg)	03.03.82
34	Frederic BULOT	27.09.90
24	Eduardo COSTA (Bra)	23.09.82
22	Mathieu COUTADEUR	20.06.86
7	Jean-Jacques GOSSO (IvC)	15.03.83
25	Lukman HARUNA (Nig)	04.12.90
23	Jerko LEKO (Cro)	09.04.80
21	Malaury MARTIN	25.08.88
26	Yohan MOLLO	18.07.89
11	NENE (Bra)	19.07.81
5	Diego PEREZ (Uru)	18.05.80
29	Distel ZOLA	05.02.89
FORWARDS		
17	Serge GAKPE	07.05.87
9	Eidur GUDJOHNSEN (Ice)	15.09.78
27	Frederic NIMANI	08.10.88
10	PARK Chu-Young (SKo)	10.07.85
20	Juan Pablo PINO (Col)	30.03.87
35	Yannick SAGBO	12.04.88
COACH		
Guy LACOMBE		12.06.55

MONTPELLIER

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Johann CARRASSO	07.05.88
16	Geoffrey JOURDREN	04.02.86
1	Laurent PIONNIER	24.05.82
40	Anthony SCRIBE	01.01.88
DEFENDERS		
14	Mourad BENHAMIDA	18.01.86
4	Nenad DZODIC (Ser)	04.01.77
25	Xavier COLLIN	17.08.74
22	Julio COLOMBO	22.02.84
21	Abdelhamid EL KADUTARI	17.03.90
13	Mickael NELSON	02.02.90
27	Cyril JEUNECHAMP	18.12.75
5	Emir SPAHIC (Bos)	18.08.80
3	Mapou YANGA-M'BIWA (CAR)	15.05.89
MIDFIELDERS		
29	Younes BELHANDA (Mor)	25.02.90
9	Remy CABELLA	08.03.90
20	Alberto COSTA (Arg)	09.01.85
8	Philippe DELAYE	25.06.75
7	Gregory LACOMBE	11.01.82
6	Joris MARVEAUX	15.08.82
17	Romain PITAU	08.08.77
23	Jamel SAIHI	27.01.87
FORWARDS		
18	Karim AIT FANA	25.02.89
19	Souleymane CAMARA (Sen)	22.12.82
10	Lilian COMPAN	30.04.77
12	Geoffrey DERNIS	24.12.80
24	Bengadli Fode KOITA	21.10.90
11	Victor Hugo MONTANO (Col)	01.05.84
COACH		
Rene GIRARD		04.04.54

NANCY

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Gennaro BRACIGLIANO	01.03.80
16	Damien GREGORINI	02.03.79
30	Johan LAPEYRE	03.08.85
40	Remi PILLOT	27.07.90
DEFENDERS		
5	ANDRE LUIZ (Bra)	27.01.80
21	Jean CALVE	30.04.84
20	Michael CHRETIEN (Mor)	10.07.84
25	Reynald LEMAITRE	28.06.83
8	Jordan LOTIES	05.08.84
13	Damian MACALUSO (Uru)	09.03.80
22	Florian MARANGE	03.03.86
27	Abdeslam OUADDOU (Mor)	01.11.78
3	Joel SAMI (DRC)	13.11.84
MIDFIELDERS		
28	Floyd AYITE (Tog)	15.12.88
6	Pascal BERENGUER	20.05.81
23	Jonathan BRISON	07.02.83
7	Bocundji CA (GuB)	28.12.86
18	Julien FERET	05.07.82
4	Cris MALONGA (Con)	11.07.87
29	Alfred N'DIAYE	06.03.90
12	Bakaye TRAORE	06.03.85
FORWARDS		
14	Paul ALO'O EFOULOU (Cam)	12.11.83
11	Djamel BAKAR	06.04.89
19	Basile CAMERLING	19.04.87
17	Gaston CURBELO	08.04.76
10	Issiar DIA (Sen)	08.06.87
26	Cheick DIABITE	25.04.88
9	Veigar Pall GUNNARSON (Ice)	21.03.80
15	Youssouf HADJI (Mor)	25.02.80
COACH		
Pablo CORREA (Uru)		14.3.67

NICE

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Lionel LETIZI	28.05.73
30	Jeremie MOREAU	22.07.80
1	David OSPINA (Col)	31.08.88
DEFENDERS		
4	Onyekachi APAM (Nig)	30.12.85
3	Alain CANTAREIL	15.08.83
24	Gerald CID	17.02.83
18	Ismael GACE	19.09.86
5	Larrys MABIALA	08.09.87
28	Gregory PAISLEY	07.05.77
19	Jonathan QUARTEY (Gha)	15.04.88
MIDFIELDERS		
29	Enoch Kofi ADU (Gha)	14.09.90
15	Kafoumba COULIBALY (IvC)	26.10.85
23	Drissa DIAKITE (Mli)	18.02.85
6	Olivier ECHOUFANI	13.09.72
14	Emerse FAE (IvC)	24.01.84
8	David HELLEBUYCK	12.05.79
27	Julien SABLE	11.09.80
10	Mahamane TRAORE (Mli)	31.08.88
FORWARDS		
20	Mamadou BAGAYOKO (Mli)	21.05.79
21	Habib BAMOGO	08.05.82
17	Chaouki BEN SAADA (Tun)	01.07.84
11	Eric MOULOUNGUI (Gab)	01.04.84
26	Anthony MOUNIER	27.09.87
9	Mickael POTE	24.09.84
12	Abeiku QUANSAH (Gha)	02.11.90
7	Loic REMY	02.01.87
COACH		
Didier OLLE-NICOLLE		02.09.61

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Gregory COUPET	31.12.72
30	Apoula EDEL (Arm)	17.06.86
16	Willy GRONDIN	12.10.74
DEFENDERS		
22	Sylvain ARMAND	01.08.80
6	Gregory BOURILLON	01.07.84
15	Zoumana CAMARA	03.04.79
2	CEARA (Bra)	16.06.80
26	Christophe JALLET	31.10.83
24	Tripy MAKONDA	24.01.90
3	Mamadou SAKHO	13.02.90
13	Sammy TRAORE (Mli)	25.02.76
MIDFIELDERS		
12	Albert BANING (Cam)	19.03.85
20	Clement CHANTOME	11.09.87
23	Jeremy CLEMENT	26.08.84
4	Claude MAKELELE	18.02.73
17	Grandel NGOYI	17.05.88
28	Maxime PARTOUCHE	05.06.90
27	Younousse SANKHARE	10.09.89
10	Stephane SESSEGNON (Ben)	01.06.84
FORWARDS		
18	Loris ARNAUD	16.04.87
29	Yannick BOLI	13.01.88
11	Mevlut ERDINC (Tur)	25.02.87
7	Ludovic GIULY	10.07.76
9	Guillaume HOARAU	05.03.84
8	Peguy LUYINDULA	25.05.79
21	Jean-Eudes MAURICE	21.06.86
COACH		
Antoine KOMBOUARE		16.11.63

RENNES

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Nicolas DOUCHEZ	22.04.80
16	Patrice LUZI	08.07.80
30	Cheikh N'DIAYE (Sen)	15.02.85
40	Florent PETIT	30.01.89
DEFENDERS		
25	Lucien AUBEY (Con)	24.05.84
3	Carlos BOCANEGRA (USA)	25.05.79
31	John BOYE (Gha)	23.04.87
2	Elderson Uwa ECHIEJILE (Nig)	20.01.88
12	Rod FANNI	06.12.81
13	Petter HANSSON (Swe)	14.12.76
5	Kader MAGNANE (Sen)	23.03.83
26	Kevin THEOPHILE CATHERINE	28.10.89
MIDFIELDERS		
33	Kevin BRU	12.12.88
14	Bruno CHEYROU	10.05.78
29	Romain DANZE	03.07.86
52	Tongo Hamed DOUMBIA	06.08.89
6	Junichi INAMOTO (Jap)	18.09.79
18	Fabien LEMOINE	16.03.87
7	Jerome LEROY	04.11.74
8	Sylvain MARVEAUX	15.04.86
17	Yann MVILA	29.06.90
4	Alexander TETTEY (Nor)	04.04.86
FORWARDS		
24	Ladhji BADIANE	16.04.87
21	Ismael BANGOURA (Gui)	02.01.85
19	Jimmy BRIAND	02.05.85
10	Asamoah GYAN (Gha)	22.11.85
20	Jires KEMBO-EKOKO (DRC)	08.01.88
9	Mickael PAGIS	17.06.73
23	Moussa SOW	19.01.86
11	Olivier THOMERT	28.05.80
COACH		
Frederic ANTONETTI		19.08.61

SAINT-ETIENNE

GOALKEEPERS		
40	Pape Abdoulaye COULIBALY (Sen)	02.03.88
16	Jeremie JANOT	11.10.77
1	Vincent PLANTE	19.11.80
DEFENDERS		
15	Yoann ANDREU	03.05.89
26	Moustapha BAYAL Sall (Sen)	30.11.85
28	Yohan BENALOUANE	28.03.87
21	Mouhamadou DABO	28.11.86
6	Sylvain MONSOREAU	20.03.81
18	Guirane N'DAW (Sen)	24.04.84
4	Efstathios TAVLARIDIS (Gre)	25.01.80
2	Cedric VARRAULT	30.01.80
MIDFIELDERS		
5	AUGUSTO Fernandez (Arg)	10.04.86
22	Gelson FERNANDES (Swi)	02.09.86
17	Yohan HAUTCOEUR	30.10.81
19	Christophe LANDRIN	30.06.77
32	Amine LINGANZI	16.11.89
20	Boubacar MANSALY (Sen)	04.02.88
12	Blaise MATUIDI	09.04.87
7	Dimitri PAYET	29.03.87
24	Loic PERRIN	07.08.85
11	Bakary SAKO	24.04.86
FORWARDS		
9	Gonzalo BERGESSIO (Arg)	20.07.84
27	Helton DOS REIS	01.05.88
31	Maodomalick FAYE (Sen)	13.12.87
13	David GIGLIOTTI	30.05.85
8	ILAN (Bra)	18.09.80
10	Kevin MIRALLAS (Bel)	05.10.87
29	Emmanuel RIVIERE	03.03.90
14	Boubacar SANOGO (IvC)	17.12.82
COACH		
Alain PERRIN		07.10.56

SOCHAUX

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Pierrick CROS	23.06.91
30	Mathieu DREYER	20.03.89
16	Teddy RICHERT	21.09.74
DEFENDERS		
13	Jeremie BRECHET	14.08.79
4	Boukary DRAME (Sen)	22.07.85
2	Frederic DUPLUS	07.04.90
5	Jacques FATY (Sen)	25.02.84
14	Bojan JOKIC (Sln)	17.05.86
17	Maxime JOSSE	21.03.87
22	Yassin MIKARI (Tun)	09.01.83
24	Damien PERQUIS	10.04.84
29	Mathieu PEYBERNES	21.10.90
3	Ivan STEVANOVIC (Ser)	24.06.83
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Ryad BOUDEBOUZ	19.02.90
8	CARLAO (Bra)	19.01.86
18	Stephane DALMAT	16.02.79
19	Benjamin GAVANON	09.08.80
26	Marvin MARTIN	10.06.88
28	Nicolas MAURICE-BELAY	19.04.85
21	Vincent NOGUEIRA	16.01.88
27	Loic POUJOL	27.02.89
7	Geoffrey TULASNE	24.02.88
FORWARDS		
20	Edouard BUTIN	16.06.88
9	Charlie DAVIES (USA)	25.06.86
11	Sloan PRIVAT	24.07.89
25	Vaclav SVERKOS (Cze)	01.11.83
COACH		
Francis GILLOT		09.02.60

TOULOUSE

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Olivier BLONDEL	09.07.79
1	Sebastien HAMEL	20.11.75
30	Yohann PELE	04.11.82
33	Marc VIDAL	03.06.91
DEFENDERS		
3	Daniel CONGRE	05.04.85
4	Mauro CETTO (Arg)	14.04.82
23	Albin EBONDO	23.02.84
2	Mohamed FOFANA	07.03.85
12	Cheikh M'BENGUE	23.07.88
13	Dany NOUNKEU (Cam)	11.04.86
MIDFIELDERS		
20	Mathieu BERSON	23.02.80
25	Daniel BRAATEN (Nor)	25.05.82
29	Etienne CAPOUE	11.07.88
6	Antoine DEVAUX	21.02.85
8	Etienne DIDOT	24.07.83
11	LUAN (Bra)	21.09.88
5	Paulo MACHADO (Por)	31.03.86
24	Oumar N'DIAYE	09.12.88
14	Francois SIRIEX	07.10.80
22	Moussa SISSOKO	16.08.89
27	Franck TABANOU	30.01.89
FORWARDS		
10	Andre-Pierre GIGNAC	12.05.85
7	Fode MANSARE (Gui)	03.09.81
19	Xavier PENTECOTE	13.08.86
28	Ahmed SOUKOUNA	13.01.90
COACH		
Alain CASANOVA		18.09.61

VALENCIENNES

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Jean-Louis LECA	21.09.85
30	Guy Rolland NDY ASSEMBE (Cam)	28.02.86
1	Nicolas PENNETEAU	28.02.81
40	Gregory WIMBEE	19.08.71
DEFENDERS		
3	Jacques ABARDONADO	27.05.78
6	Milan BISEVAC (Ser)	31.08.83
24	Gaetan BONG	25.04.88
2	David DUCOURTIOUX	11.04.78
25	Rudy MATER	13.10.80
5	Rafael SCHMITZ (Bra)	17.12.80
15	Siaka TIENE (IvC)	22.02.82
20	Dame TRAORE	19.05.86
13	Mody TRAORE	14.07.80
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Amara BANGOURA (Gui)	10.03.86
10	Fahid BEN KHALFALLAH (Tun)	09.10.82
26	Renaud COHADE	29.09.84
8	Gael DANIC	19.11.81
12	Remi GOMIS (Sen)	14.02.84
14	Foued KADIR	05.12.83
22	Jonathan LACOURT	17.08.86
19	NAM Tae-Hee (SKo)	03.07.91
23	Jose SAEZ	07.05.82
17	Carlos SANCHEZ (Col)	06.02.86
FORWARDS		
7	Johan AUDEL	12.12.83
11	Luigi PIERONI (Bel)	08.09.80
28	Gregory PUJOL	25.01.80
27	Mamadou SAMASSA	01.05.86
9	Filip SEBO (Slk)	24.02.84
COACH		
Philippe MONTANIER		15.11.64

SPAIN LA LIGA

SQUADS 2009-10

ALMERIA

GOALKEEPERS		
31	ALVARO	16.08.88
1	DIEGO ALVES (Bra)	24.06.85
13	ESTEBAN	27.06.75
DEFENDERS		
18	Santiago ACASIETE (Per)	22.11.77
4	CHICO	06.03.87
6	Domingo CISMA	09.02.82
3	GUILHERME (Bra)	05.02.88
16	MICHEL (Bra)	15.02.90
2	Hernan PELLERANO (Arg)	04.06.84
MIDFIELDERS		
25	Hernan BERNADELLO (Arg)	03.08.86
15	Miguel Angel CORONA	12.02.81
8	Albert CRUSAT	13.05.82
7	Miguel Angel NIETO	12.01.86
10	Jose ORTIZ Bernal	04.08.77
17	Juan Manuel ORTIZ Palazon	01.03.82
14	Alex QUILLO	07.10.86
23	Fernando SORIANO	24.09.79
22	Fabian VARGAS (Col)	17.04.80
FORWARDS		
20	Henok GOITOM (Swe)	16.06.84
11	Pablo PIATTI (Arg)	31.03.89
21	DAVID RODRIGUEZ	14.02.86
9	Esteban SOLARI (Arg)	02.06.80
5	Kalu UCHE (Nig)	15.11.82
COACH		
Hugo SANCHEZ (Mex)		11.07.58

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS		
13	ARMANDO	16.01.71
30	Iago HERRIN	25.01.88
1	Gorka IRAIZOZ	06.03.81
DEFENDERS		
20	AITOR OCIO	28.11.76
5	Fernando AMOREBIETA	21.03.85
29	Eneko BOVEDA	14.12.88
22	Xabier CASTILLO	29.03.86
35	Xabi ETXEBARRIA	20.07.87
15	Andoni IRAOLA	22.06.82
3	KOIKILI	23.12.80
32	Unai MEDINA	16.02.90
12	Mikel SAN JOSE	30.05.89
4	USTARITZ	16.02.83
19	Iban ZUBIAURRE	22.01.83
MIDFIELDERS		
7	DAVID LOPEZ Moreno	10.09.82
28	Oscar DE MARCOS	14.04.89
6	Xabier ETXEITA	31.10.87
11	Igor GABILONDO	10.02.79
18	Carlos GURPEGI	19.08.80
26	Ander ITURRASPE	08.03.89
24	JAVI MARTINEZ	02.09.88
8	Inaki MUNOZ	05.07.78
16	Pablo ORBAIZ	06.02.79
14	Markel SUSAETA	14.12.87
2	Gaizka TOQUERO	09.08.84
10	Francisco YESTE	06.12.79
FORWARDS		
23	Inigo DIAZ DE CERIO	15.05.84
17	Joseba ETXEBERRIA	05.09.77
9	Fernando LLORENTE	26.02.85
27	Iker MUNIAIN	19.12.92
21	JON VELEZ	17.02.85
COACH		
Joaquin CAPARROS		13.10.55

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Sergio ASENJO	28.06.89
31	David DE GEA	07.11.90
13	ROBERTO	10.02.86
DEFENDERS		
3	ANTONIO LOPEZ	13.09.81
24	Leandro CABRERA (Uru)	17.06.91
18	Alvaro DOMINGUEZ	16.05.89
16	JUANITO	23.07.76
22	PABLO Ibanez	03.08.81
21	Luis Ampranto PEREA (Col)	30.01.79
4	Mariano PERNIA	05.04.74
17	Tomas UJFALUSI (Cze)	24.03.78
2	Juan VALERA	21.12.84
MIDFIELDERS		
12	Paulo ASSUNCAO (Bra)	25.01.80
6	Ignacio CAMACHO	04.05.90
23	CLEBER SANTANA (Bra)	27.06.81
9	Jose Manuel JURADO	29.06.86
49	KEKO	28.12.91
26	KOKE	08.01.92
11	MAXI RODRIGUEZ (Arg)	02.01.81
8	RAUL GARCIA	11.07.86
19	Jose Antonio REYES	01.09.83
20	SIMAO Sabrosa (Por)	31.10.79
FORWARDS		
10	Sergio AGUERO (Arg)	02.06.88
27	Borja BASTON	25.08.92
7	Diego FORLAN	19.05.79
14	Florent SINAMA-PONGOLLE (Fra)	20.10.84
COACH		
Abel RESINO		02.02.60

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Ruben MINO	18.01.89
13	Jose Manuel PINTO	15.11.75
1	Victor VALDES	14.01.82
DEFENDERS		
22	Eric ABIDAL (Fra)	11.07.79
29	Marc BARTRA	15.01.91
21	Dmytro CHYGRYNSKIY (Ukr)	07.11.86
2	DANI ALVES (Bra)	06.05.83
32	Andreu FONTAS	14.11.89
4	Rafael MARQUEZ (Mex)	13.02.79
19	MAXWELL (Bra)	27.08.81
18	Gabriel Milito (Arg)	07.09.80
33	Marc MUNIESA	27.03.92
3	Gerard PIQUE	02.02.87
5	Carles PUYOL	13.04.78
MIDFIELDERS		
16	Sergio BUSQUETS	16.07.88
28	Jonathan DOS SANTOS (Mex)	26.04.90
31	GAI Assulin (Isr)	09.04.91
8	Andres INIESTA	11.05.84
35	JEFFREN Suarez	20.01.88
15	Seydou KEITA (Mli)	16.01.80
26	Martin MONTOYA	14.04.91
34	THIAGO Alcantara	11.04.91
24	Yaya TOURE (IvC)	13.05.83
6	XAVI Hernandez	25.01.80
FORWARDS		
11	BOJAN Krkic	28.08.90
27	EDUARD ORIOL	05.11.86
14	Thierry HENRY (Fra)	17.08.77
9	Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC (Swe)	03.10.81
36	JONATHAN SORIANO	24.09.85
10	Lionel MESSI (Arg)	24.06.87
17	PEDRO Rodriguez	28.07.87
COACH		
Josep GUARDIOLA		18.01.71

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Daniel ARANZUBIA	18-09-79
13	MANU	09-03-86
DEFENDERS		
12	Brayan ANGULO (Col)	02.11.89
19	Diego COLOTTO (Arg)	03.10.81
3	FILIPE LUIS (Bra)	09.08.85
15	LAURE	22.03.85
7	Alberto LOPO	05.05.80
2	MANUEL PABLO	25.01.76
4	PISCU	25.02.87
5	ZE CASTRO (Por)	13.01.83
MIDFIELDERS		
16	ANTONIO TOMAS Gonzalez	19.01.85
18	Andres GUARDADO (Mex)	28.09.86
23	IVAN PEREZ	16.11.85
22	JUAN RODRIGUEZ	01.04.82
6	JUCA (Bra)	19.11.77
14	PABLO ALVAREZ	14.05.80
8	SERGIO Gonzalez	10.11.76
21	Juan Carlos VALERON	17.06.75
FORWARDS		
10	ADRIAN Lopez	08.01.88
9	Rodolfo BODIPO (EqG)	25.10.77
20	LASSAD Nouioui (Tun)	08.03.85
24	MISTA	12.11.78
11	RIKI	11.08.80
COACH		
Miguel Angel LOTINA		18.06.57

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS		
25	Cristian ALVAREZ (Arg)	13.11.85
13	JAVI RUIZ	15.03.80
1	Idriss Carlos KAMENI (Cam)	18.02.84
DEFENDERS		
2	Javi CHICA Torres	17.05.85
3	DAVID GARCIA	16.01.81
35	DIDAC Vila	09.06.89
18	Juan FORLIN (Arg)	10.01.88
16	Nicolas PAREJA (Arg)	19.01.84
5	Ivan PILLUD (Arg)	24.04.86
12	Facundo RONCAGLIA (Arg)	10.02.87
30	Victor RUIZ	25.01.89
MIDFIELDERS		
31	Juanjo CIERCOLES	27.05.88
9	Ivan DE LA PENA	06.05.76
19	FERNANDO MARQUES	04.12.84
36	JAVI LOPEZ	21.01.86
4	JAVI MARQUEZ	11.05.86
27	JULIAN	27.02.87
22	MOISES Hurtado	20.02.81
7	Shunsuke NAKAMURA (Jap)	24.06.78
11	Joan VERDU	05.05.83
FORWARDS		
8	Jose CALLEJON	11.02.87
20	CORO	05.01.83
24	IVAN ALONSO (Uru)	10.04.79
10	LUIS GARCIA	06.02.81
14	Ben SAHAR (Isr)	10.08.89
23	Raul TAMUDO	19.10.77
COACH		
Mauricio POCHETTINO (Arg)		02.03.72

GETAFE

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Jordi CODINA	27.04.82
1	Oscar USTARI (Arg)	03.07.86
DEFENDERS		
4	David BELENGUER	17.12.72
2	CATA DIAZ (Arg)	13.03.79
11	Cosmin CONTRA (Rom)	15.12.75
21	David CORTES	29.08.79
12	Lucas LICHT (Arg)	06.04.81
3	MANE	22.12.81
5	MARIO	02.02.82
24	MIGUEL TORRES	28.01.86
15	RAFA	09.04.85
19	Franck SIGNORINO (Ita)	19.09.81
MIDFIELDERS		
23	ADRIAN Gonzalez	25.05.88
18	Derek BOATENG (Gha)	02.05.83
22	Javi CASQUERO	19.08.76
6	Fabio CELESTINI (Swi)	31.10.75
8	Jaime GAVILAN	12.05.85
17	Daniel PAREJO	16.04.89
20	PEDRO LEON Sanchez	24.11.86
16	Pedro RIOS	12.12.81
FORWARDS		
10	Juan ALBIN (Uru)	17.07.86
14	Manu DEL MORAL	25.02.84
7	KEPA Blanco	13.01.84
27	Adrian SARDINERO	13.10.90
9	Roberto SOLDADO	27.05.85
COACH		
MICHEL		23.03.63

MALAGA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Francesc ARNAU	23.03.75
13	Gustavo MUNUA (Uru)	27.01.78
25	Roberto SANTAMARIA	27.02.85
DEFENDERS		
21	Iban CUADRADO	21.02.79
14	HELDER ROSARIO (Por)	09.03.80
2	JESUS GAMEZ	10.04.85
20	MANOLO GASPAR Haro	03.02.81
4	MANU	14.08.89
15	Milan STEPANOV (Ser)	02.04.83
3	WELIGTON (Bra)	26.08.79
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Antonio APONO	13.02.84
12	Selim BENACHOUR (Tun)	08.09.81
30	DAVID GONZALEZ	20.01.90
17	DUDA (Por)	27.06.80
16	EDU RAMOS	17.02.92
8	FERNANDO Fernandez	02.06.79
24	JUANITO	17.02.80
19	Patrick MTILIGA (Den)	28.01.81
11	VALDO	23.04.81
6	XAVI TORRES	21.11.86
FORWARDS		
7	Nabil BAHA (Mor)	12.08.81
22	EDINHO (Por)	07.07.82
9	Fernando FORESTIERI (Ita)	16.01.90
5	Albert LUQUE	11.03.78
31	PEDRITO	28.04.89
18	Victor OBINNA (Nig)	25.03.87
COACH		
Juan Ramon MUNIZ		02.11.68

MALLORCA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Dudu AOUATE (Isr)	17.10.77
1	German LUX (Arg)	06.07.82
30	NAUZET Perez	01.03.85
DEFENDERS		
17	AYOZE Diaz	25.05.82
23	Enrique CORRALES	01.03.82
5	Ruben GONZALEZ	29.01.82
3	JOSEMI	15.11.79
2	Felipe MATTIONI (Bra)	15.10.88
16	Jose NUNES (Por)	07.03.77
4	Ivan RAMIS	25.10.84
7	Fernando VARELA	01.09.79
MIDFIELDERS		
28	ALBERTO	09.03.88
24	BORJA VALERO	21.01.85
22	BRUNO CHINA (Por)	05.08.82
26	Dani CASTELLANO	02.11.87
11	Gonzalo CASTRO (Uru)	14.09.84
10	JULIO ALVAREZ	01.05.81
6	MARIO SUAREZ	24.02.87
19	Jose Luis MARTI	28.04.75
8	OSCAR Diaz	24.04.84
20	Paulo PEZZOLANO (Uru)	25.04.83
29	Sergio TEJERA	28.05.90
FORWARDS		
21	Aritz ADURIZ	11.02.81
27	Sergi ENRICH	26.02.90
14	Alhassane KEITA (Gui)	26.06.83
15	TUNI	14.06.82
18	VICTOR Casadesus	28.02.85
9	Pierre WEBO (Cam)	20.01.82
COACH		
Gregorio MANZANO		05.08.56

OSASUNA

GOALKEEPERS		
26	Andres FERNANDEZ	17.12.86
1	RICARDO	30.12.71
13	ROBERTO	25.01.79
DEFENDERS		
2	Cesar AZPILICUETA	28.08.89
14	JOSETXO	25.02.75
4	MIGUEL FLANO	19.08.84
3	Nacho MONREAL	26.02.86
15	OIER Sanjurjo	25.05.86
5	ROVERSIO (Bra)	17.01.84
23	SERGIO Fernandez Gonzalez	23.05.77
MIDFIELDERS		
19	Javier CALLEJA	12.05.78
17	Javier CAMUNAS	17.07.80
7	Ludovic DELPORTE (Fra)	06.02.80
24	JOKIN ESPARZA	15.06.88
12	JUANFRAN	9.01.85
8	MASOUD Shojaei (Ira)	09.06.84
6	Javad NEKOUNAM (Ira)	07.09.80
10	Patxi PUNAL	06.09.75
22	RUPER	04.06.87
21	Krisztian VADOCZ (Hun)	30.05.85
FORWARDS		
20	Carlos ARANDA	27.07.80
18	DADY (CaV)	13.08.81
16	Jorge GALAN	22.01.89
11	Walter PANDIANI (Uru)	27.04.76
9	Javier PORTILLO	30.03.82
COACH		
Jose Antonio CAMACHO		08.06.55

SQUADS 2009-10

RACING SANTANDER

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Fabio COLTORI (Swi)	03.12.80
31	MARIO Fernandez	30.04.88
13	TONO	17.12.79
DEFENDERS		
28	Osmar BARBA	08.06.88
5	CHRISTIAN	15.10.85
29	Juan Luis CORTUO	28.03.86
6	Jose Angel CRESPO	09.02.87
2	HENRIQUE (Bra)	14.10.86
22	Jose MORATON	14.07.79
12	Nasief MORRIS (SA)	16.04.81
3	ORIOL	23.05.81
37	PICON	13.05.88
14	Pablo PINILLOS	09.07.74
20	Laszlo SEPSI (Rom)	07.06.86
19	Marc TORREJON	18.02.86
MIDFIELDERS		
17	Manuel ARANA	03.12.84
27	Sergio CANALES	16.02.91
8	Gonzalo COLSA	11.05.79
32	Dani ALVAREZ	05.02.87
21	Papakouli DIOP (Sen)	19.03.86
18	EDU BEDIA	23.03.89
4	Mehdi LACEN (Alg)	15.03.84
26	LUISMA	11.08.89
11	OSCAR SERRANO	30.09.81
23	TONI MORAL	29.08.81
FORWARDS		
9	Alexandre GEUD (Swi)	05.09.82
24	LUIS GARCIA	24.06.78
10	Pedro MUNITIS	19.06.75
7	Mohamed TCHITE (Bur)	31.01.84
35	URI	29.10.86
15	XISCO	27.06.86
COACH		
Juan Carlos MANDIA		17.01.67

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS		
26	Antonio ADAN	13.05.87
1	Iker CASILLAS	20.05.81
13	Jerzy DUDEK (Pol)	23.03.73
DEFENDERS		
18	Raul ALBIOL	04.09.85
2	Alvaro ARBELOA	17.01.83
15	Royston DRENTHE (Hol)	08.04.87
19	Ezequiel GARAY	10.10.86
12	MARCELO (Bra)	12.05.88
21	Christoph METZELDER (Ger)	05.11.80
3	PEPE (Por)	26.02.83
4	Sergio RAMOS	30.03.86
MIDFIELDERS		
22	Xabi ALONSO	25.11.81
10	Lassana DIARRA (Fra)	10.03.85
6	Mahamadou DIARRA (Mli)	18.05.81
5	Fernando GAGO (Arg)	10.04.86
24	Esteban GRANERO	02.07.87
14	GUTI	31.10.76
8	KAKA (Bra)	22.04.82
23	Rafael VAN DER VAART (Hol)	11.02.83
FORWARDS		
11	Karim BENZEMA (Fra)	19.12.87
20	Gonzalo HIGUAIN (Arg)	10.12.87
7	RAUL	27.06.77
9	Cristiano RONALDO (Por)	05.02.85
17	Ruud VAN NISTELROOY (Hol)	01.07.76
COACH		
Manuel PELLEGRINI (Chi)		16.09.53

SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS		
29	Juan MARTIN	18.02.89
1	Andres PALOP	22.10.73
13	JAVI VARAS	10.09.82
DEFENDERS		
28	CALA	26.11.89
3	Ivica DRAGUTINOVIC (Ser)	13.11.75
14	Julien ESCUDE (Fra)	17.08.79
2	Federico FAZIO (Arg)	17.03.87
18	FERNANDO NAVARRO	25.06.82
24	Abdoulay KONKO (Fra)	09.03.84
23	LOLO	22.08.84
17	SERGIO SANCHEZ	03.04.86
4	Sebastien SQUILLACI (Fra)	11.08.80
MIDFIELDERS		
21	Lautaro ACOSTA (Arg)	14.03.88
6	ADRIANO (Bra)	26.10.84
32	Jose Gomez CAMPANA	30.05.93
16	Diego CAPEL	16.02.88
20	Tom DE MUL (Bel)	04.03.86
5	Aldo DUSCHER (Arg)	22.03.79
7	JESUS NAVAS	21.11.85
25	Diego PEROTTI (Arg)	26.07.88
11	RENATO (Bra)	15.05.79
22	N'Dri ROMARIC (IvC)	04.06.83
8	Didier ZOKORA (IvC)	14.12.80
FORWARDS		
30	Jose CARLOS	17.07.87
27	Enrique CARRENO	27.11.86
15	Ernesto Javier CHEVANTON (Uru)	12.08.80
12	Frederic KANOUTE (Mli)	02.09.77
9	Arouna KONE (IvC)	11.11.83
10	LUIS FABIANO (Bra)	08.11.80
19	Alvaro NEGREDO	20.08.85
COACH		
Manolo JIMENEZ		21.01.64

SPORTING GIJON

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Ivan CUELLAR	25.05.84
1	JUAN PABLO Colinas	02.09.78
32	RAUL Dominguez	01.11.86
DEFENDERS		
2	Alberto BOTIA	27.01.89
15	Roberto CANELLA	07.02.88
16	GERARD	08.10.78
12	GREGORY Arnolin (Fra)	10.11.80
14	IVAN HERNANDEZ	27.02.80
3	JOSE ANGEL	05.09.89
22	Rafael SASTRE	22.10.75
MIDFIELDERS		
4	ANDREU Mayoral	17.06.83
6	CARMELO	09.07.83
17	Diego CASTRO	02.07.82
20	Miguel Angel DE LAS CUEVAS	19.06.86
19	DIEGO CAMACHO	03.10.76
21	KIKE MATEO	30.12.79
11	Alberto LORA	25.03.87
24	Sergio MATABUENA	12.02.79
8	MICHEL	09.11.85
7	PEDRO Santa Garcia	10.03.84
5	Alberto RIVERA	19.02.78
FORWARDS		
23	David BARRAL	10.05.83
9	Mate BILIC (Cro)	23.10.80
10	Francisco Jose MALDONADO	02.06.81
18	LUIS MORAN	26.07.87
COACH		
Manuel PRECIADO		28.08..57

TENERIFE

GOALKEEPERS		
1	LUIS GARCIA Conde	23.04.79
13	SERGIO ARAGONESES	01.02.77
DEFENDERS		
26	AITOR NUNEZ	02.10.87
4	Carlos BELLVIS	24.04.85
24	Jose Antonio CULEBRAS	16.01.79
3	HECTOR Sanchez	31.03.85
19	Ezequiel LUNA (Arg)	19.11.86
2	MARC BERTRAN	22.05.82
5	Manolo MARTINEZ	15.06.80
6	Pablo SICILIA	10.09.81
MIDFIELDERS		
21	Alejandro ALFARO	23.11.86
10	AYOZE Garcia Perez	22.11.85
17	JUANLU	07.02.84
23	MIKEL Alonso	16.05.80
27	Julian OMAR	26.01.88
8	RICARDO Leon	08.02.83
15	ROMAN Martinez (Arg)	27.03.83
FORWARDS		
9	ANGEL Luis Rodriguez	26.04.87
22	DINEI (Bra)	11.11.83
14	Daniel Ngom KOME (Cam)	19.05.80
7	NINO	10.06.80
20	RICHI	14.04.77
11	Gaizka SAIZAR	22.07.80
COACH		
Jose Luis OLTRA		24.03.69

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	CESAR Sanchez	02.09.71
13	Miguel Angel MOYA	02.04.84
31	SALVA	19.02.88
32	Sergio GARABATO	16.05.89
DEFENDERS		
20	ALEXIS	04.08.85
32	ARTURO Navarro	13.03.89
38	Sergio CUESTA	01.08.91
2	BRUNO Saltor	01.10.81
4	DAVID NAVARRO	25.05.80
15	Angel DEALBERT	01.01.83
11	Asier DEL HORNO	19.01.81
5	Carlos MARCHENA	31.07.79
22	Jeremy MATHIEU (Fra)	29.10.83
23	MIGUEL (Por)	04.01.80
MIDFIELDERS		
6	David ALBELDA	01.09.77
24	Ever BANEGA (Arg)	29.06.88
8	Ruben BARAJA	11.07.75
18	Manuel FERNANDES (Por)	05.02.86
25	NACHO GONZALEZ (Uru)	14.05.82
17	JOAQUIN	21.07.81
28	JORDI ALBA	21.03.89
3	Hedwiges MADURO (Hol)	13.02.85
19	PABLO Hernandez	11.04.85
21	David SILVA	08.01.86
14	VICENTE	16.07.81
FORWARDS		
40	ISCO	21.04.92
10	Juan MATA	28.04.88
30	MICHEL	29.07.88
16	MIKU (Ven)	19.08.85
29	Daniel OLCINA	25.02.89
7	David VILLA	03.12.81
9	Nikola ZIGIC (Ser)	25.09.80
COACH		
Unai EMERY		03.11.71

VALLADOLID

GOALKEEPERS		
13	FABRICIO Agosto Ramirez	31.12.87
25	JACOBO Sanz	10.07.83
1	JUSTO VILLAR (Par)	30.06.77
DEFENDERS		
28	ARIDANE	23.03.89
8	Javier BARAJA	24.08.80
2	Antonio BARRAGAN	12.06.87
24	CESAR ARZO	21.01.86
17	LUIS PRIETO	19.02.79
3	Alberto MARCOS	15.02.74
4	NIVALDO (Bra)	23.06.80
16	PEDRO LOPEZ	01.01.83
26	YURI	10.02.90
MIDFIELDERS		
18	ALVARO RUBIO	18.04.79
12	ASIER	28.03.87
10	BORJA Fernandez	14.01.81
20	Fabian CANOBBIO (Uru)	06.03.80
27	CARLOS LAZARO	13.11.90
14	HECTOR FONT	15.06.84
23	MARQUITOS	21.03.87
5	Haris MEDUNJANIN (Hol)	08.03.85
7	NAUZET Aleman	25.02.85
6	PELE (Por)	14.09.87
29	SERGIO GARCIA	06.08.89
19	Jonathan SESMA	14.11.78
21	SISI	22.04.86
FORWARDS		
11	Alberto BUENO	20.03.88
22	DIEGO COSTA (Bra)	07.10.88
9	MANUCHO (Ang)	07.03.83
30	QUIQUE	16.05.90
COACH		
Jose Luis MENDILIBAR		14.03.61

VILLARREAL

GOALKEEPERS		
13	DIEGO LOPEZ	03.11.81
26	JUAN CARLOS	27.07.87
1	Xavi OLIVA	29.05.76
29	VICENTE FLOR	05.11.87
DEFENDERS		
18	ANGEL Lopez Ruano	10.03.81
5	Joan CAPDEVILA	03.02.78
27	EDU	02.10.81
15	Fabricio FUENTES (Arg)	13.10.76
4	Diego GODIN (Uru)	16.02.86
2	GONZALO Rodriguez (Arg)	10.04.84
20	IVAN MARCANO Sierra	23.06.87
17	JAVI VENTA	13.12.75
32	KIKO	21.08.88
33	MARIO Gaspar Perez	24.11.90
MIDFIELDERS		
21	BRUNO Soriano	12.06.84
10	CANI	03.08.81
8	Santi CAZORLA	13.12.84
6	Sebastian EGUREN (Uru)	08.01.81
24	Damian ESCUDERO (Arg)	20.04.87
14	David FUSTER	03.02.82
30	Marcos GULLON	20.02.89
11	Ariel IBAGAZA (Arg)	27.10.76
7	Robert PIRES (Fra)	29.10.73
19	Marcos SENNA	17.07.76
FORWARDS		
9	Joseba LLORENTE	24.11.79
12	NILMAR (Bra)	14.07.84
23	Jonathan PEREIRA	12.05.87
22	Giuseppe ROSSI (Ita)	01.02.87
28	MARCO RUBEN (Arg)	26.10.86
COACH		
Ernesto VALVERDE		09.02.64

XEREZ

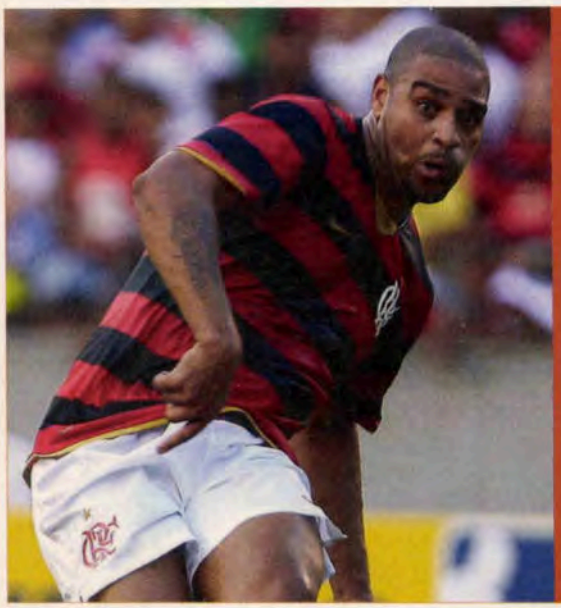
GOALKEEPERS		
1	CHEMA	25.04.80
13	RENAN Brito Soares (Bra)	24.01.85
30	TONI	15.02.88
DEFENDERS		
23	AYTHAMI Oliva	02.04.86
22	Jose Manuel CASADO	09.08.86
18	DAVID PRIETO	02.01.83
5	LEANDRO Gioda (Arg)	01.10.84
3	Jesus MENDOZA	23.02.77
2	Juan Luis REDONDO	17.01.77
14	VICTOR SANCHEZ	08.09.87
MIDFIELDERS		
20	ABEL Gomez Moreno	20.02.82
4	ALEX Bergantinos	07.06.85
16	Emiliano ARMENTEROS	18.01.86
19	Carlos CALVO	18.09.85
7	FRANCIS	17.12.81
24	Sidi Yaya KEITA (Mal)	20.03.85
11	MOMO	15.07.82
6	Vicente MORENO	26.10.74
15	Fabian Ariel ORELLANA (Chi)	27.01.86
10	Emilio Jose VIQUIERA	20.09.74
FORWARDS		
8	ANTONITO	02.02.78
21	Giancarlo MALDONADO (Ven)	29.06.82
9	MARIO BERMEJO Castanedo	07.10.78
17	MICHEL	03.08.77
COACH		
Jose Angel ZIGANDA		01.10.66

ZARAGOZA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Juan Pablo CARRIZO (Arg)	06.05.84
1	Javier LOPEZ VALLEJO	22.09.75
DEFENDERS		
4	Roberto AYALA (Arg)	14.04.73
28	Javier BORQUE	02.06.89
2	Carlos DIOGO (Uru)	18.07.83
5	PABLO AMO	15.01.78
6	Raul GONI	12.10.88
24	Ivan OBRADOVIC (Ser)	25.07.88
3	Javier PAREDES	05.07.82
15	Francisco PAVON	09.01.80
22	Ruben Martin PULIDO	02.02.79
MIDFIELDERS		
16	ABEL AGUILAR (Col)	06.01.85
8	ANDER Herrera	14.08.89
20	Marko BABIC (Cro)	21.01.81
14	GABI	10.07.83
34	Mickael GAFFOR (Fra)	21.01.87
27	Kevin LACRUZ	13.02.92
7	JORGE LOPEZ	19.09.78
TBA	Angel LAFITA	07.08.84
11	Jermaine PENNANT (Eng)	15.01.83
23	Leonardo PONZIO (Arg)	29.01.82
12	Franck SONGO'O (Cam)	14.05.87
FORWARDS		
19	Javier ARIZMENDI	03.03.84
10	BRAULIO	18.09.85
21	EWERTHON (Bra)	10.06.81
9	Ikechukwu UCHE (Nig)	05.01.84
COACH		
MARCELINO Garcia		14.08.65

Famous Last Words

Who said what and why



"I was alone, sad and depressed. I was only happy when I was drinking: wine, whisky, vodka and beer. Lots of beer"

Now back in Brazil with Flamengo, ex-Internazionale striker Adriano explains how he turned to the booze after the death of his father

"When you see what strikers we have in the national team today...in my day, they would not have been allowed to even sniff the ball"
Gerd Muller on Germany's forwards

"Serie A used to be a priority for professional footballers everywhere. You can't say it now. Most hope to be in England or Spain"
Marseille coach Didier Deschamps talks of the decline of the Italian top flight

"Certain parents sell their children. If I was kind, I'd say it was irresponsible. If I wanted to exaggerate, I'd call it criminal"
Francois Blaquart, assistant technical director at the French federation, laments the decision of many mothers and fathers to allow their young offspring to move abroad at too tender an age

"Marriage helps footballers. It helps them settle down. You know where they are too!"
Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson

Praying...Maradona

"In Oceania, there's a German coaching at the age of 90. Why then shouldn't I carry on?"
Republic of Ireland coach Giovanni Trapattoni, a mere 70 years old, puts pen to paper for two more years

"The bearded one [God] saved me many times before – and I hope he will do so this time"
Argentina coach Diego Maradona seeks help

"What's going on, Don Julio? Please leave us. This is our place"
Reports in the Argentinian press claim Maradona had to order AFA supremo Julio Grondona out of the dressing room at half-time during the defeat away to Paraguay

"It's not a secret. We have neither a competent federation nor administrative set-up. It will be a scandal for us not to be involved in a World Cup on African soil"
Former Nigeria captain Sunday Oliseh analyses the fading Super Eagles

"If we have yet to win titles, it's not his fault. He must not abandon us"
Ivory Coast keeper Boubacar Barry calls on federation chief Jacques Anouma to think again about quitting

"He was a lion of a man. Make that Three Lions"
Gary Lineker's tribute at Bobby Robson's memorial service

"I'm sorry. I let myself get provoked by the verbal insults of the fans and was dragged down to making an unsporting gesture"
Swiss referee Massimo Busacca finds himself in hot water after giving Young Boys fans the finger during a cup tie against Baden

"I'm utterly shocked. I've never heard of a decision like this"
Jurgen Rober, the German coach of Turkish top-flight side Ankaraspor, is stunned by the decision to demote his club to the second division on the grounds of a "dubious" merger with local rivals Ankaragucu

"I was slightly surprised by the transfer of Samuel Eto'o to Inter, given all that he brought to the team and the large quantity of goals he scored for us"
Barca star Lionel Messi distances himself from the reported antipathy towards the Cameroon striker in the Camp Nou dressing room

Old pals act...Eto'o and Messi

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